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ARAB TIMES

MOTHER'S DAY
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NO. 7510 MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1989 SHABAN 13, 1409 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Karachi calm Benazir criticises ethnic troubles

KARACHI, March 19, (Reuters): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today denounced ethnic riots in Karachi as a deliberate effort to undermine her government.

Benazir visiting Pakistan's largest city as the death toll from 10 days of violence rose to 29, said her government was reviewing security operations to improve handling of unrest.

She told reporters the riots were a "calculated and deliberate attempt to weaken the people's elected government."

The ethnic clashes, between Pashtuns from northwestern Pakistan and mohajir immigrants from India, were the first since Benazir took over as civilian prime minister on Dec. 2.

Savage fighting between the two groups has killed about 900 people in Karachi, capital of Benazir's home province of Sindh, and the nearby town of Hyderabad, since October 1986.

Benazir told a seminar in Karachi earlier today: "I don't understand what motivated the killers to shed the blood of the innocent people."

Karachi was relatively calm today, according to police, but doctors said a wounded man died in hospital, taking the death toll to 29 since the riots erupted on March 10.

Half the total died in a flare-up of the violence yesterday, apparently sparked by the discovery of two bullet-riddled bodies on the dried-up bed of Malir River.

The authorities have called in troops and imposed a curfew in at least five Karachi districts to curb rioting.

In last November's elections Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) swept rural areas of Sindh where many Pashtuns live.

The largely middle-class mohajirs won almost all the seats in Karachi and Hyderabad, the province's two main cities.



Demonstration against Roh

Radical students fought with police in Seoul today after a rally by 5,000 South Korean dissidents calling for the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo, witnesses said.
Most protesters dispersed peacefully but some 200 radicals later flung rocks and fire bombs at police. Police responded with tear-gas. No injuries or arrests were immediately reported. Riot police are seen stopping protesters spilling onto the streets. (Reuters wirephoto)

Attestation suspended

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Indian embassy in Kuwait has suspended attestation of all new visas, according to reliable sources.

The sources said the action was taken after the problem of 900 wageless workers erupted in January. Indian diplomats contacted by the Arab Times declined to comment.

All Indians working overseas have to get immigration clearance, which is given after a visa has been attested by the Indian embassy in Kuwait.

Several employers have delayed bringing Indian workers because of the suspension. Last year, the embassy banned attestation of visas for maids after the Indian government decided to review the status of women workers in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, negotiations among the embassy, contractor and labourers are still under way to resolve the problem of the 900 wageless workers, who went on a strike on Jan 21 to demand back wages. The workers claim they are owed four months' wages and rejected the employer's offer of repatriation. Indian diplomats are trying for an out of court settlement and are making high-level contacts. Meanwhile, the workers are being fed by volunteers.

Non-payment to the striking labourers in Kuwait has also caused a furore in the Indian Parliament.

Arafat won't take part

US-PLO dialogue in Tunis

ABU DHABI, March 19, (UPI): The PLO denied today a Kuwaiti newspaper report which said that Yasser Arafat would take part in the forthcoming round of talks between the PLO and the United States, scheduled to take place in Tunis on Wednesday.

"This is nonsense," a senior aide to Arafat, reached by telephone in Tunis from Abu Dhabi, told UPI, adding that Arafat would not take part in the meeting and future meetings as long as they are held at such a low level.

"Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre) will not take part (in the talks) unless more senior American officials attend such meetings. This will be one of our demands," he said.

The senior PLO figure, who asked that his name not be used, admitted however that Arafat would leave the Iraqi capital of Baghdad for Tunis before March 22, and would be "kept abreast of the outcome of the meetings."

A Kuwaiti daily, in a Tunis datelined story, quoted leading Palestinian sources as saying, "Arafat will take part in the Tunis talks," adding that "the new round of talks between the two sides would last for about five hours, because there were several important items on the agenda."

The former Israeli Defence Minister made an arrival statement saying: "It is very emotional and exciting for me to be in Egypt after ten years of the peace signing which coincides with the return of Taba (to Egypt)," referring to a small, disputed strip of beach that has been officially returned to Egyptian control last week.

rejected by most of the Israeli leadership.

"We shall not make peace with America, France etc. We shall make peace with the Palestinians. We must speak with them," Weizman said regarding a proposed international peace conference to resolve the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza.

"But we must know the Palestinians to have the authority to conclude this business. In my opinion, we have to talk with the PLO," Weizman said, a view

Decision deferred

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Indian Communication Ministry has postponed the collection of the KD500 security deposit, by cash or bank guarantee, from private telephone subscribers.

A ministry official, when contacted by the Arab Times, confirmed the report but declined to give the reasons for postponing the decision by three months.

Last month, the ministry decided to stop the practice of accepting a company guarantee in lieu of a KD500 cash deposit or a bank guarantee.

Ministry officials had contacted subscribers, asking them to replace their company guarantee as soon as possible by either a cash deposit or bank deposit, creating a rush at local banks.

Yesterday, local banks dealt with another rush to cancel bank guarantees when subscribers were told by officials at the Salmiya and Farwaniya exchanges that the implementation had been postponed.

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Permanent residence planned

Social security scheme may be linked

By Hussain Salameh

THE Council of Ministers has decided to link the social security scheme proposed for expatriates with another plan that calls for granting some Arabs permanent residence in Kuwait, well informed sources said yesterday.

The sources added that the

social security scheme for expatriates, which was prepared by the Public Institution for Social Security, is still with the Council of Ministers. The scheme was prepared in accordance with an expanded study which took into consideration the experiments of others in this field and its expected merits and drawbacks.

The scheme is aimed at providing stability to the local labour market in such a manner that the majority of those who will be covered by the scheme will be those who are beneficial to the country. This scheme was submitted to the Council of Ministers over two years ago.

Higher Planning Council proposed a project to provide some Arabs with permanent residence, the Council of Ministers "found some link between the two projects". Criteria for granting permanent residence to Arabs are: duration of stay in Kuwait, type of work, the country's necessity for them and their conduct during their stay.

The sources said that after the

Two interrogated Israeli forces kill 4 Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 19, (Reuters): Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip shot dead four Arab protesters today, bringing to seven the number of dead in a weekend of bloody clashes.

Meanwhile, Jordan today interrogated two guerrillas who were captured yesterday after they killed an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid.

A week-long lull in violence in the occupied areas ended yesterday when troops killed three stone-throwers at a Gaza city mosque, one on the roof and two just outside the entrance, security sources said.

Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip responded by extending a general strike planned for Wednesday to a four-day stoppage, effective immediately.

Protest erupted throughout the strip and para-military border police in the city today shot dead a demonstrator who stabbed border police chasing him.

In the West Bank village of Silat Al Khariya, troops shot dead two Arabs aged 12 and 18 years and wounded two others, one critically, security sources said.

Doctors at Gaza's Ahli hospital said a 60-year-old man died there from the effects of tear-gas fired by troops. An Army spokesman said the report was being investigated.

Several Palestinians, particularly infants and the elderly, have been reported to have been killed by the gas but the Army has denied the charges and they remain unverified.

At least 408 Arabs and 16 Jews have died in the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Jordanian authorities today interrogated the guerrillas captured after they killed an Israeli soldier in a raid into the Jewish state, a Jordanian official said.

The official, who refused to be named, would not give the identity of the men who ambushed an Israeli patrol near the frontier south of the Dead Sea on Friday night then slipped back into Jordan.

The raid was claimed by the Damascus-based Fatah Uprising group led by Colonel Abu Musa who rebelled against PLO leader Yasser Arafat in 1983.

The raid seemed designed to embarrass Jordan, which strenuously deters guerrilla activity, and the mainstream PLO, engaged in a peace initiative and a fragile dialogue with the United States.

A Jordanian official said details were insufficient to judge the motives of the attackers, but it appeared likely they wanted to derail the PLO's peace strategy.

A radical Palestinian faction based in Lebanon also said today that it was responsible for the raid into Israel from Jordan.



Weizman

Withdrawal first, talks later: Iran

Hardline clerics back Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, March 19, (Agencies): Gulf war peace talks will remain stalled until Iraq withdraws all its troops from Iranian soil, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in remarks published today.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Velayati as saying in a message to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to exchange all prisoners of war (POWs) as soon as possible in the framework of the UN Resolution 598 after the withdrawal of forces to international borders," Velayati said.

He said Iraq had repeatedly undertaken to implement the resolution but its lack of goodwill had become clear to the international community.

"If Iraq had not held back and sabotaged the peace talks, and if the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognised borders had taken place without delay, as stated in the first section of the resolution, all the prisoners would have returned to their families by now," Velayati's message said.

Earlier this month Iraq proposed that all POWs be freed regardless of the outcome of the talks but Velayati said this was an attempt to "disrupt the priorities of the resolution."

As long as Iraq failed to implement the most important part of the resolution and withdrawal, no undertaking by it was acceptable, Velayati said.

Iran and Iraq have held three rounds of inconclusive talks since the Aug 20 ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war.

Iran says Iraq still occupies 2,600 sq km (1,000 sq miles) of Iranian territory. About 100,000 POWs are still held by the two sides.

A hardline group of Iranian clerics today announced they would support parliament Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani if he runs for President of Iran in July or August, IRNA said.

Hojatoleslam Mehdi Karubi, a spokesman for the hardline militant clergy group, said his group would support Rafsanjani if he runs for president.

Rafsanjani has not so far announced he would run for president, but IRNA, monitored in Athens, said he was "on his way" to becoming a candidate.

No other candidate was immediately in sight to challenge Rafsanjani if he runs.

The news agency said the Iranian presidential election would be held between July 23 and Aug 22 and Rafsanjani "has not ruled out the possibility of running."

Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, who was Iran's President for two four-year terms since 1981, is not eligible for a third term under the Iranian constitution.

Heaven-bound

NEW YORK, March 19, (UPI): Most people in the United States say they believe in God and will go to heaven, a Newsweek magazine poll said yesterday as Christians prepare to celebrate Easter on March 26.

In a copyright poll to appear in Newsweek's March 27 issue that will hit news-stands tomorrow, the magazine reported 94 per cent of the US population said they believe God exists and 77 per cent said their chances of ending up in heaven are good or excellent.

The magazine reported 58 per cent said they believe in hell and that only six per cent said they think they have a good or excellent chance of going there.

The poll, conducted by the Gallup organisation, was based on 750 telephone interviews conducted last Dec 21 and Dec 22. The margin of error was described as plus or minus four per cent.



Pakistanis Majid (left) and Afzal face newsmen at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistanis fighting in Jalalabad: Moscow

MOSCOW, March 19, (Agencies): Soviet television said yesterday that Pakistani troops accounted for about a quarter of the anti-government force attacking the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

Correspondent Alexander Shkirando, reporting from Kabul, said about 20,000 mujahedeen and Pakistanis were outside Jalalabad, which has been under siege for two weeks.

"About 25 per cent of the extremists attacking Jalalabad are Pakistani servicemen, militiamen or intelligence officers," he said.

"According to Afghan sources, both sides have suffered heavy losses, though rebel losses are greater."

The report briefly showed a man Shkirando said was a captured 26-year-old Pakistani and quoted him as saying how the attack was launched.

In Kabul, meanwhile, Afghan authorities said today that two men captured in fighting between

between government forces and Muslim rebels in the southern Kandahar province were Pakistani soldiers belonging to an Army intelligence unit.

At the news conference in Kabul, officials identified the two Pakistani soldiers as Bashir Majid and Mohammad Afzal, and said they were captured near Kandahar town on March 13.

The two men told reporters they entered Afghanistan on instructions from senior Pakistani officers to gather intelligence on Afghan Army formations.

Meanwhile, more than 200 Afghan soldiers defected with tanks and weapons to Muslim rebels in northern Afghanistan, and another 37 were captured in fighting during the civil war, guerrilla sources said today.

The rebels took five officers and 32 soldiers as prisoners during attacks on communist security posts along the road on

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- آج کے اردو صفحات میں
- کراچی فائرنگ سندھ میں
 - انتشار پھیلانے کی سازش تھی
 - افغانستان میں پاکستانی فوج
 - کی سرگرمیوں کا انکشاف
 - افغان فوجی اسلحہ سمیت
 - مجاہدین میں شامل ہو گئے
 - امریکہ کاٹل سے سفارتی
 - تعلقات ختم کر دے گا
 - دست انداز بنے بھارت کو
 - شکست دیدی
 - پاکستان عراق کو قرضہ دے گا

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 12.00 noon, 11.00 pm
Low water: 6.00 am, 6.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.56 am
Sunset: 5.59 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Fahala: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 8°C 46°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Fahala: 9°C 48°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmad: 21°C 70°F
Fahala: 21°C 70°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 80 per cent
Ahmad: 93 per cent
Fahala: 90 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Fighting erupts before San Salvador polls open

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, March 19 (AP): Fighting broke out on the outskirts of the capital today, and two journalists were killed and a third wounded as voters in El Salvador went to the polls to elect a new president.

As election day dawned on this Central American country, troops from the 1st Infantry Brigade battled leftist rebels near a power substation in San Ramon, radio reports said.

The sounds of the battle, which ended shortly before 7 am (1300 GMT), could be heard in downtown San Salvador as dawn broke.

The soundman from a local television crew was shot to death early this morning in eastern El Salvador, reports said.

William Figueroa, a newsman at the local station, Channel 12, said preliminary reports indicated soundman Mauricio

Pineda, 24, died when security forces opened fire on the crew's vehicle at a checkpoint near La Unión.

Two free-lance photographers who worked for the international news agency Reuters also were shot, one fatally, late last night at a checkpoint near Ilopango Air Force base outside San Salvador, an official said.

Justice of Peace Manuel Jesus de Aguilar said troops who brought in the body of Roberto

Navas, 28, said he and his colleague, Luis Galdamez, 34, were shot when they failed to stop at an Air Force checkpoint near the base.

Ilopango is about five miles (eight kilometres) from the capital.

Jesus de Aguilar said Navas was shot twice, in the back and the arm. Galdamez underwent emergency surgery for a gunshot wound to the back, he said.

Polls were scheduled to open at 7 am (1300 GMT) and close at 4 pm (2200 GMT) or 5 pm (2300 GMT) today, depending on when darkness fell. Initial results were expected to be released by late tonight.

For today's election, nearly 1.8 million voters were registered and politicians predicted a large turnout, although voting was not taking place in 24 municipalities, out of 260, that are controlled by the rebels.

EPRLF leader rejects charges of massacre

COLOMBO, March 19, (KUNA): The ruling party of the north eastern provincial council today rejected charges of its alleged involvement in the massacre of 34 Sinhalese civilians in a northern village last month.

Periyathambi Kirubakaran, the finance minister of the ruling Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) told pressmen, his group has never killed any Sinhalese living in the villages bordering the northern and eastern provinces.

The local English and Sinhala press last week reported, military investigations revealed that the EPRLF was involved in the massacre of 34 Sinhalese in the Dutuwa village, bordering the Tamil dominated northern province on Feb 11.

The newspapers reported that an EPRLF member, who was arrested by the police in a border village last week had confessed his group's involvement in the massacre.

"The arrested person is not a member of our party and the Lankan police did not verify this from our party members," said Kirubakaran today.

Holi is no longer holy, say Indians

NEW DELHI, March 19, (AP): The Holi festival tradition of painting the faces of friends and exchanging hugs is too often an excuse to harass women, some Indians say.

"The long, unwanted hugs are one of the ways to harass us during Holi, it is a terrible feeling," said Subhra Sarin, a school secretary.

"There is nothing holy in our Holi now," said Indira Ghosh, who plans to keep her two daughters at home on Wednesday. "It is too risky for nice girls to go out."

Holi, the Indian festival of colour, will be celebrated on Wednesday when merry-makers in costume throw balloons filled with paint and fire squirt guns. Tradition also calls for splashing paint on, or massaging it into, each other's faces.

Some revellers will engage in what Indians call "eye teasing," which can range from flirting with, pinching and giving unwelcome hugs to women, to rape.

"The festival has become an easy license to trouble us," Sarin said.

In New Delhi, 2,000 police officers will be on duty on Wednesday to try to curb "Holi hooliganism" on the streets, said a police officer.

'Bomb warning omitted details'

New airport security measures in UK

LONDON, March 19, (Reuters): British newspapers today raised further questions about government handling of warnings sent to airlines before a bomb blew a Pan Am jet out of the sky over Scotland last December, killing 270 people.

As new airport security measures went into effect in Britain, at least three newspapers said the British Transport Ministry had omitted vital details in its first bomb alert to airline security chiefs.

The alert, in a telex sent on Nov 22, was supposed to help airlines spot a bomb contained in a radio-cassette player.

The Boeing 747, flying from London to New York, was downed over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec 21 by a bomb made of plastic explosive, hidden in a radio-cassette recorder.

A second warning containing further details and sent by post held up in the Christmas mail and did not reach Pan Am until two days after the bombing, the newspapers said.

Last week Transport Minister Paul Channon defended the decision to post the letter, saying it contained chiefly supporting information of little importance.

But today the Observer newspaper said the letter, posted on Dec 19, contained four new pieces of vital information.

The letter spelled out that the aerial jacking was taped to the side of the radio and that more

'The Professor'

LONDON, March 19, (AP): A report that the Pan Am Flight 103 bomber is a Libyan known to international security forces as "The Professor" appeared in the Sunday Express today.

The London weekly's report, attributed to unidentified detectives, did not identify the bomber by name.

"He is a Libyan known as 'The Professor' by anti-terrorist detectives around the world because of his genius with explosives," the report said.

wiring would be found than in a normal plane.

It also said it would be obvious that there were loose pieces if the machine was picked up and it gave details of wrappings used inside the radio.

The Observer and the Mail on Sunday also said that the letter advised security staff to put any suspect packages in the aircraft hold.

The Mail on Sunday quoted an unnamed security expert as saying this was "tantamount to telling airline staff to place packages they suspected contained bombs in the hold."

The government sent its warnings after West German police found a radio-cassette bomb and arrested members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Action demanded

'Call girl's' Libyan link sparks fury in Britain

LONDON, March 19, (Reuters): British politicians have demanded urgent government action following newspaper suggestions that a glamorous parliamentary aide worked as a call girl and had links with a cabinet minister and a top Libyan official.

In the latest twist the News of the World, which first broke the story, said an unnamed cabinet minister was to be questioned by security officials about whether he was a friend of the researcher, who has denied working as a call girl.

The News of the World claims that Pamela Border, 27, a former Miss India, combined her work as a researcher at the House of Commons with a career as a high class call girl.

"An inquiry is urgently needed," Conservative Member of Parliament Ivor Stanbrook told reporters last night. "If there is a connection with Libya, I would have thought the government would be anxious to inquire into this matter."

Investigation
Opposition Labour Party business manager Frank Dobson said: "We need a full investigation of the whole history of her access to the House of Commons."

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984 after a gunman fired from the Libyan diplomatic mission in London, killing a British policeman.

Commons leader John Wakeham sought to defuse the controversy by pledging an investigation if proof arose that she posed a threat to national security. "Of course the government would be concerned to investigate any evidence anyone might have if there was a breach of security," he told the Sunday Express.

The latest News of the World report came the day after newspaper claims that the researcher had met at a luxury Paris hotel with Ahmed Gaddafi Al Daini, described as a senior member of the Libyan security services.

The Daily Express quoted an unnamed friend of Pamela as saying: "It has always been her burning ambition to get involved with men of wealth and power."

Members of Parliament, who had greeted revelations of Pamela's links with Sports Minister Colin Moynihan and the editors of two Sunday newspapers with amusement, demanded to know how she had been given a House of Commons security pass. The woman worked as a research assistant for Conservative Parliamentary. British tabloids have carried photographs of her with a government minister and two national newspaper editors.

Natural disasters

BANGKOK, March 19, (AP): Asia appears to be suffering from more serious natural disasters that can be linked to deforestation and other environmental problems, according to a United Nations report.

The report from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to be presented at a conference in Bangkok next week, cited massive flooding in Bangladesh, drought in China and flooding in Thailand and Pakistan in 1988.

The report linked the natural disasters with environmental degradation, "especially the large-scale deforestation taking place in the region."

Downing of plane

Italy 'not to be blamed'

ROME, March 19, (Reuters): Defence Minister Valerio Zanone said in a newspaper interview today that the Italian Air Force could not have fired a missile that destroyed a civilian airliner in 1980.

A team of six experts reported on Friday that the domestic DC-9, which plunged into the sea near Sicily killing all 81 people on board, was brought down by an unidentified missile.

Zanone has ordered an urgent internal inquiry but told the newspaper La Stampa he had ruled out Italian Air Force responsibility. "The data which I had collected last summer shows reliably that no Italian military planes were flying at the time and in the area of the accident."

"An inspection of the number of missiles supplied has furnished proof that no missiles are missing," Zanone said.

He said NATO, France and the Italian-based US Sixth Fleet had all declared they had no activities in the area on the night of the accident. Libya has also denied responsibility.

Cruel radar records from military bases in southern Italy have disappeared, fuelling accusations by relatives of victims of an official cover-up.



Birth of puppies

WASHINGTON, March 19, (Reuters): Word that President Bush would be evicted from his bedroom so his wife Barbara could play midwife to her pregnant dog Millie proved premature.

"He was in the bedroom last night because Millie had the babies in the beauty parlour," the first lady told reporters yesterday as she discussed the Friday night birth of six puppies.

First lady Barbara Bush and her granddaughter Marshal Lloyd Bush watch as Millie tends to her six new puppies. (Reuters wirephoto)

Police free two children held by blind escapee

APPLE VALLEY, Minnesota,

March 19, (AP): Police stormed a Minnesota house early today and freed two children who had been held hostage for more than a day by a blind prison escapee and an accomplice.

One of the two captors was shot dead in the attack, police said.

A special weapons and tactics team rescued Dominic Platt, 8, and his 6-year-old sister, Cameo, unharmed about 1:30 am today, police Capt. Bruce Erickson said. They had been held since Friday afternoon.

Police threw a stun grenade into the house when one of the children came out to pick up drinks the authorities had arranged to deliver. Capt. Terry Cook said.

Police shot one of the captors when he grabbed the girl at knifepoint, Cook said. Police would not immediately say

whether inmate Larry Hill, who is blind, or his accomplice, Willie Johnson, had been killed.

The other was taken into custody, police said.

"Basically, they said they had to be allowed to leave. If they didn't, they were going to throw a dead child out," Cook said.

The children's grandmother, Joan Platt, had pleaded for the children's release on television last night.

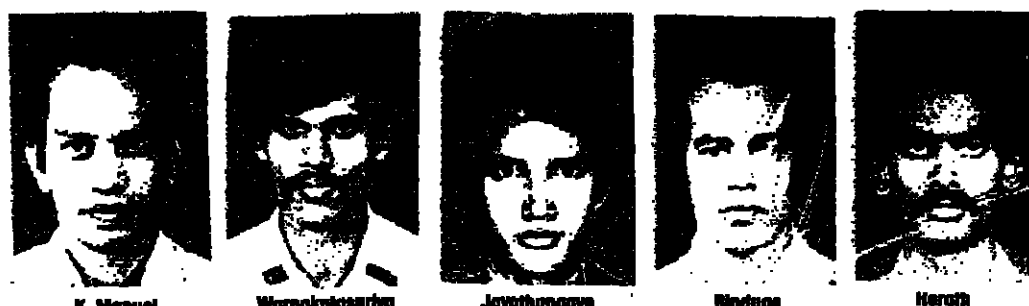
Police had not allowed the child's mother, Lois Platt, to return to the house when she left yesterday morning to start a car in what police described as an attempt by the two men to leave.

Platt was taken to a hospital for treatment of exhaustion and stress.

Police chief Lloyd Rivers said he did not know whether Platt's role in the incident was willing or unwilling.

WARNING

The following Sri Lankan employees left their work and did not come back. They are still under the company's sponsorship:



Those who know their whereabouts are requested to tel. 2408811, 771.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China criticises US

BEIJING, March 19, (UPI): China lashed out today at foreign criticism of its handling of recent anti-Chinese unrest in Tibet, accusing the US Senate of interfering in Chinese affairs and supporting pro-independence violence in the Himalayan region.

The resolution of the US Senate ... slanderously accuses the Chinese government of repression and human rights violations in Tibet (and) blatantly supports a handful of separatists in Tibet in their atrocities," the National People's Congress, China's legislature, said in statements carried by the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

The drug battle

WASHINGTON, March 19, (Reuters): In the roaring 1920s, federal agents moved into Chicago to crack down on the Al Capone gang of rumrunners and murderers.

Now the "Feds" are ready to move in again, this time right into their own back yard in the nation's capital, where the modern equivalent of rumrunners — drug dealers — are on a murder spree.

On his first day as the nation's chief drug fighter, William Bennett said last Monday he would make Washington a "test case" in the drug battle.

Train collision

JOHANNESBURG, March 19, (AP): Two passenger trains collided head-on today, killing at least two people and injuring about 150 others, police said.

The collision occurred at 2:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) at a commuter station on the Western outskirts of Johannesburg. The two trains were travelling in opposite directions on a rail line linking Johannesburg with Randfontein, a town 30 kilometres to the west.

Poison threat

LONDON, March 19, (AP): Containers of insecticide and other chemicals that an Indonesian ship lost in the English Channel were being hunted by British and French emergency services, police said today.

Dr Paul Johnston, a scientist, said a huge area of the channel would be polluted and fish wiped out if six tons of lindane insecticide leaked into the water.

"It would be an environmental disaster," said Johnston, a research fellow of the Greenpeace environmental organisation at London University's Queen Mary College.

Mine kills 5 soldiers

MANILA, March 19, (UPI): Five government troops were killed and ten were wounded today when their truck hit a land mine planted by communist rebels in the southern Philippines, the military said.

Provincial commander Col. Gene Tulawin said the soldiers were on their way to Gasa town in Zamboanga Del Sur, some 490 miles (780 km) south of Manila when their truck struck a land mine at dawn today.

Tulawin said guerrillas of the communist New People's Army then attacked the soldiers and blocked government reinforcements with heavy gunfire.

Burned to death

JOHANNESBURG, March 19, (Reuters): A black transvestite caught sexually assaulting a woman in Soweto was stoned to death and set alight by an enraged crowd, witnesses said.

Gabriel Mazibuko, released last month after serving a 13-year sentence for raping his mother, was dressed in women's clothing when seized yesterday by a mostly-female mob alerted by the woman's screams.

In a brief statement on the incident, police today said that a black man had been burned to death in Soweto by a mob.

Agreed on talks

BOGOTA, March 19, (AP): The government and the country's most feared guerrilla group have signed an accord to begin talks toward ending nearly two decades of bloody insurgency.

President Virgilio Barco in a nation-wide television address on Friday night asked the other Colombian rebel groups to follow suit.

"I urge all guerrillas to integrate themselves in civilian life. The road is always open," Barco said.

An estimated 10,000 leftist guerrillas operate in Colombia. They are blamed for more than 2,000 deaths and nearly 500 kidnappings in 1988 alone.



Yeltsin: support

10,000 march for Yeltsin

Votes against Gorbachev

MOSCOW, March 19, (Reuters):

Some 10,000 supporters of Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin demonstrated in front of the Moscow City Council building today chanting "Hands off Yeltsin" and demanding a halt to official attacks on him.

The crowd, which marched to a banned election rally in support of Yeltsin at the city's Gorky Park, also shouted "Down with Ligachev" — referring to Yegor Ligachev, a politburo conservative and Yeltsin's arch-rival.

Police cordoned off part of Gorky Street, keeping protesters from going inside the red-brick council building, but made no move to break up the demonstration.

When some of the protesters, angry that a demand for megaphones had been denied, tried to break away and head for Red Square, police formed a line three-deep across Gorky Street and pushed them back.

A police officer then provided a megaphone and the protesters began delivering speeches by the statue of Yuri Dolgoruki, the founder of Moscow, located just across the street from the council building.

Yeltsin, 57, was removed from the party politburo early last year after complaining that reform was going too slowly.

He is standing as a candidate

to represent the whole of Moscow in a new-style Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, being set up as part of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms.

Yeltsin's supporters say party officials are siding with his opponent — Yegor Y. Brakov, director of the Zil car factory.

Twelve people voted against Gorbachev in Communist Party elections the party daily Pravda said today.

The most votes cast against any candidate — 78 — went against Ligachev.

The publication on Pravda's front page marked the first time in recent memory that detailed results of a party election had been announced in the Soviet media.

With 641 people voting, Pravda said Gorbachev received 629 votes in support of his candidacy and 12 against.

Ligachev's tally was 563 for and 78 against. Another politburo member, party international commission chief Alexander Yakovlev, received the second highest number of "no" votes, with 582 for and 59 against.

Two orthodox priests won seats in the new parliament, the first time churchmen have been elected to a national assembly in the Soviet Union, Moscow television reported.

Global treaty on waste likely to be signed

GENEVA, March 19, (Reuters):

A global convention designed to end "garbage imperialism" — the dumping of toxic waste in the Third World — will almost certainly be agreed this week despite environmentalists' complaints that it is not strong enough.

"It now seems highly likely, almost certain, that a meaningful treaty will be signed on Wednesday," Jan Huismans of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said.

He was speaking in the Swiss city of Basel, where ministers and officials from 100 countries start two days of meetings tomorrow to iron out any remaining differences on the convention which aims to control the export of hazardous wastes.

The signing ceremony scheduled for Wednesday morning will top 18 months of negotiations.

The document is intended to end what African nations call "garbage imperialism," the dumping of lethal sludges in developing nations.

Improperly handled, such toxins can pass through the soil into water supplies and find their way into the air. They can cause cancer, miscarriages and birth defects such as cleft palates and retardation.

The international waste trade is big business, since many companies in countries with tough waste disposal restrictions have found it cheaper to send their waste to countries with laxer rules — especially countries that need the money.

The treaty seeks to ensure that exported waste material is disposed of safely. But environmentalist groups like Greenpeace think the convention has been dangerously watered down.

Fruit packing plants in Chile resume work

SANTIAGO, March 19, (Agencies): Packing plants idled by a US ban on imported fruit caused by the discovery of cyanide-injected grapes were back working yesterday, and ships were being loaded with tons of fruit after the United States lifted the ban.

The budget director also said the government will invest \$28 million in an emergency programme to lessen the economic damage done by the US ban.

Budget Director Jorge Selume said the government will buy some of the fruit that cannot be

exported because of the ban, create an emergency work programme and promote Chilean products abroad with a publicity campaign.

The programme was outlined the day after the US food and drug administration lifted a four-day ban on Chilean fruit.

Meanwhile, more than 100 federal inspectors converged on the Tioga marine terminal in northeast Philadelphia to inspect Chilean grapes unloaded by longshoremen for the first time in five days.

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Happy to return

Senegalese students Boury Diouf (left) and Alioune Badiane (right) line up to have their passports stamped before boarding a plane leaving China. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ambitious schedule to follow Discovery

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., March 19, (Reuter): The successful mission of the shuttle Discovery leaves the US space programme poised to proceed with an ambitious launch schedule that was scuttled after the Challenger disaster three years ago.

"Now the fun really begins," US space agency associate administrator Richard Truly said of the 15 flights scheduled for the next two years, a pace about equal to that anticipated before the January 1986 Challenger disaster which killed seven astronauts.

"I was amazed," Truly told reporters of the estimated 450,000 spectators who watched Discovery make a perfect landing in the California desert on Saturday. It was the second largest crowd ever to witness a shuttle return to earth.

"I think we've got the public's interest and support and we're going to try to keep it by flying good flights," he said.

In about a week, the shuttle Atlantis will be hauled out of its hangar at the Kennedy Space Centre to be prepared for launch at the end of April.

Venus
Atlantis will deploy the \$500-million Magellan probe on the first leg of a voyage to Venus. The probe, which has its own rockets to propel it out of earth orbit, is designed to provide high resolution radar maps of the surface of Venus.

In October, Atlantis will deploy the \$1.5-billion Galileo spacecraft, which is bound for Jupiter.

Discovery, which space agency officials said had fewer in-flight problems than any shuttle mission, is scheduled for two more flights this year including one in December to deploy a super-powerful telescope.

Truly admitted a question mark still hangs over the July flight of Columbia, which has not flown since January 1986 and has been plagued with several refurbishing delays.

"The biggest challenge the programme has... is the status of Columbia," Truly said. "I would say it's a schedule push. If it's not ready we'll adjust the schedule and go with that."

But Truly also stressed the space agency would not risk jeopardising the entire programme by rushing any launch.

"This is still a risky business," he said, the lingering shadow of the Challenger disaster still present.

"We plan the next lift-off and the one after that the same way we treated this... We're just going to keep plugging on."

The present launch schedule for this year:

April 28 — Atlantis, with the Magellan-Venus spacecraft.

Mid-July — Columbia, with a Defence Department payload.

Mid-August — Discovery with a Defence Department payload.

Oct. 12 — Atlantis, with the Galileo-Jupiter spacecraft.

Nov. 13 — Columbia, whose crew is to deploy a communications satellite and retrieve for return to earth a scientific satellite orbiting since 1984.

People's Congress opens EEC meddling in Tibet: China

LONDON, March 19, (Reuter): China has accused unnamed members of the European Parliament of working with Tibetan separatists and warned that relations could suffer if Europe did not cease meddling in its affairs.

A statement issued by the New China News Agency said China responded with "strong indignation and deep regret" to Western European allegations of repression in Tibet.

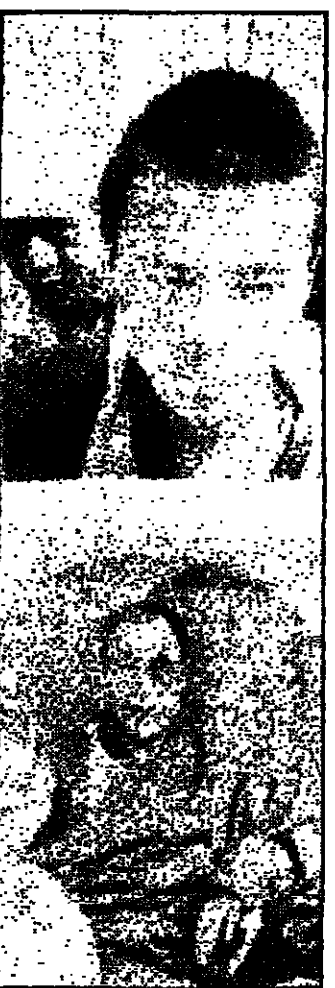
"We strongly demand that the European Parliament immediately stop its interference in China's internal affairs so as to prevent doing any harm to our bilateral relations," the news agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said.

The European Parliament, in a resolution passed on Thursday, has called on China to lift martial law imposed on the Tibetan capital Lhasa against Chinese rule.

The statement, which came from the foreign affairs committee of the National People's Congress, China's Parliament, said China had been entirely justified in taking steps to uphold law and order in Tibet.

Violence
The protests had been "an act of violence deliberately staged by a handful of separatists... (and) forces abroad attempting to split China."

"They despatched their men to smuggle weapons across the border and engineer the riot. To our deep regret certain persons in the European Parliament went to the



Dalai Lama

A Tibetan monk displays a poster of the Dalai Lama, during a protest rally in New Delhi. (Reuter wirephoto)

length of co-ordinating with these separatists," the statement added.

The Foreign Ministry in Beijing had summoned European Economic Community diplomats on Friday in protest after the issue of Tibetan human rights had been raised in the European Parliament.

A harshly worded commentary carried earlier on Saturday by the New China News Agency said Chinese dissidents were trying to mobilise foreign opinion over alleged human rights abuses.

Problems
China's legislature opens its annual meeting tomorrow amid growing economic and political problems that have plunged the country into crisis.

Chinese sources predicted a tough fight at the 2,796-member National People's Congress between delegates calling for democratic change and government officials stressing stability.

The government argues that it needs stability to solve China's pressing economic problems.

Inflation is running at a record 36 per cent. Grain harvests have been below target for the past five years. Electricity is in scarce supply. Steel production has dropped. Salt and cotton are hard to buy.

But many intellectuals say the economic problems will persist unless the government relaxes its tight controls on political activity.

Pro-democratic forces are expected to continue writing and distributing a series of open letters, urging an amnesty for political prisoners and respect for human rights.

Since January, four such letters have been sent, signed by more than 100 leading intellectuals. The fourth letter was sent last week, despite threats of reprisals from government officials.

Delegates also said they expected the pro-democracy forces to raise the issue of human rights at the congress itself, which would be an unprecedented act of defiance.

"It will be a lively time," said one Communist Party member. "Intellectuals will push as far as they can go."

For its part, the government already has begun damage control.

Officials have ordered the state-run news media to censor reports of disagreements at the congress and portray the delegates as united. Communist Party sources said.

And the restrictions apparently are not limited to the domestic press.

On Friday night, Chinese authorities interrogated two Taiwanese journalists after they had interviewed a delegate. Two teams of Hong Kong reporters were also stopped from talking with delegates.

Lu Zhichao, a government spokesman, acknowledged the incident and apologised. But he said he could not assure that there would be no repetition.

"It will be a step back from last year," said one delegate. "Press freedoms have been limited because the government is worried about stability."

MANILA, March 19, (AP): The slaying of a congressman at a remote provincial airport shows the cult of political violence still haunts the Philippines, despite President Corason Aquino's vow to end "rule by the bullet."

Rep. Moises Espinosa, 55, a member of a pro-Aquino party, was gunned down Friday along

with two other people minutes after arriving in his home province of Masbate on a flight from Manila, 240 miles north-west of Manila.

Manila newspapers quoted relatives as speculating that Espinosa, a member of an influential political clan, was

slain by business or political rivals. No arrests were reported as of today.

Espinosa was the first congressman murdered since Aquino came to power in 1986 after a popular uprising toppled President Ferdinand Marcos. Ironically, he was vice chairman

of the public order and security committee in the House of Representatives.

During a speech in Japan in November 1986, Aquino said her "people power" administration had replaced "rule by the bullet with rule by the ballot."

But the independent Philip-

pine Daily Inquirer noted in an editorial Sunday that in the Philippines, "a determined killer... usually has a good chance of cornering his quarry."

Espinosa's name could be added to a lengthening list of people slain in unsolved political killings during the Aquino administration.

Writers to explore root cause of hatred

BOSTON, March 19, (AP): Bringing philosophers, writers and psychologists together to ponder the roots of hatred is not naive, it's a necessity in this era of plastic explosives, skinheads and the furor over "The Satanic Verses" organisers of a new programme say.

"Anatomy of hate," a three-day seminar, opened today at Boston University, will tackle some tough questions and diverse subjects — from the threats against author Salman Rushdie for his novel to January race riots in Miami.

"That's a very strong word — hatred," said novel prize-winning humanitarian Elie Wiesel, whose foundation organised the event. "Usually, all the conferences are for love and for compassion, and I wanted to name the disease."

"And the disease is simple, concrete and conjugal, and it's here, all around us. That's why I begin with the anatomy of hatred, to explore it, to analyse it, to dissect it."

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity has tentative plans to hold other "beyond hate" gatherings this year and next year in Israel, the Soviet Union, Paris and San Francisco. A US public television series is also in the works.

Events
The foundation cites several positive events last year: the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war, dialogue between the United States and the Soviets, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's recognition of Israel's right to exist, international co-operation in rushing aid to earthquake-torn Armenia.

But it also gives an example of violent hatred for every one or a good event:

— The bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, four days before Christmas.

— Ethnic violence in Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan.

— The escalation of assaults and vandalism by racist "skin-head" groups in the United States.

— Continuing strife between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

"To ask why hate continues in the face of humanitarian co-operation and political understanding is neither naive nor Utopian," the foundation said in a statement. "It is a necessity."

Cost
"In a world where global annihilation lies seconds away and the technology of destruction, whether plastic explosives or nerve gas, is readily available to a handful of extremists, the costs of hatred are too high for the subject of hate not to be a topic of the highest concern."

More than 25 professors, writers, psychologists and peace advocates are scheduled to participate in the forum, including Boston University president John Silber and Camelia Sadat, the daughter of slain Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Religion
One of the participants, Kristin Stendahl of the Harvard Divinity School, said the religious aspect of hatred is a particular delegate issue.

People who tend to see the world "in a strongly adverse, antagonistic form," Stendahl said, can "easily play into the hands of the patterns of hatred. The Hebrew word 'shalom' doesn't actually mean 'peace' it means 'harmony.' That's a non-hateful image."

Wiesel, born in Romania 60 years ago, was deported along with his family to the Auschwitz concentration camp when he was 15. His mother and sister died there. He and his father were transferred to Buchenwald, where his father died before the camp was liberated in 1945.

Politicians said the march may have coincided with a final round of secret talks in Algiers between ETA and Spanish government envoys before the guerrillas take a decision on the ceasefire.

Xabier Arzallus, head of the ruling Basque Nationalist Party, told reporters the problem was how to allow the guerrillas a dignified way out.

doves were released, said ETA should lay down arms definitively. "We don't want winners or losers, we want only peace."

Supporters of ETA, who plan a rival rally on Easter Day when the truce expires, did not respond immediately to the Bilbao march, which was described by residents as the largest seen in this north-western region of 2.2 million people.

Ardanza, speaking as white

On the light side

Being fat can be fun

LONDON, March 19, (Reuter): Fat women with a combined weight of over 28,000 lbs (11,000 kg) gathered on Saturday for Britain's first conference for the overweight and declared: "Being fat can be fun."

"Fat women are the butt of all the jokes. We are a group of fat women aiming to challenge fat oppression," said Ruth Teddenn of the London women's fat group.

The 150 women attending the closed day-long conference were urged to throw away their diet sheets, lock up their scales and enjoy themselves. "I have been fat and dieting since I was 11, after 20 years, I have decided to enjoy myself," said Teddenn, who weighs in at 224 lbs (90 kg).

Dukakis to lead parade
NEW YORK, March 19, (AP): Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis will lead this year's Greek Independence Day parade up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on April 9.

The 1988 Democratic presidential candidate was chosen by the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York to be grand marshal for the annual parade.

Anne to visit Ethiopia
LONDON, March 19, (AP): Princess Anne, president of Save The Children Fund, will visit Ethiopia in May to look at the charity's \$10.3-million health development and refugee programme.

"We have helped to develop basic health services and permanent famine relief and early-warning systems which will strengthen Ethiopia's long-term capacity to save its own children," said the charity's director-general, Nicholas Hinton.

Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, will visit the African nation May 29-June 6.

Jack Benny Award
LOS ANGELES, March 19, (AP): Former Monty Python troupe member John Cleese called it weird when he was honoured with the 12th annual Jack Benny Award for his comedy career.

"It just feels very strange for a guy... who used to sit there in front of the television set watching George Burns and Jack Benny to be sitting here in Los Angeles 3,000 years later being given this award," Cleese said at the ceremony. "It's very weird."

Cleese plans to attend the Academy Award

ceremony March 29. His film A Fish Called Wanda is up for three Oscars.

Cleese is nominated for the screenplay. Director Charles Crichton is nominated for best director and actor Kevin Kline for best supporting actor.

Cleese starred in such Monty Python film as Life of Brian and Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Comedian robbed of car
WEST HOLLYWOOD, March 19, (AP): Comedian Don Rickles and his wife were robbed of their \$35,000 Jaguar sedan at gunpoint, authorities said.

Rickles' wife, Barbara, had just parked the white 1988 XJ6 near their daughter's apartment last week and was getting out of the car when a man pointed a large revolver at her, said Los Angeles county sheriff's deputy Kathryn Nielsen.

The gunman demanded her purse and the keys to the car.

Barbara handed over the keys. The comedian got out of the car, and the gunman got in and drove off, Nielsen said.

Reagan waives fee
TEMPE, Arizona, March 19, (AP): Former President Ronald Reagan has waived his fee for appearing at a conference in Tempe, but officials said he wasn't influenced by the fact that more than three-quarters of the tickets remain unsold.

Reagan was scheduled to appear at Arizona State University as part of an "inspiring tomorrow" leadership conference. His speaking fee wasn't disclosed when conference organisers arranged for his appearance. The former President has signed a \$50,000-a-speech lecture contract.

"I believe we put forth a very strong case that this is the kind of programme that is important for him to come to," Giuliano said.

Penthouse blames model
NEW YORK, March 19, (AP): The publisher of Penthouse magazine has testified that a former model, suing him for \$10 million was a potential Marilyn Monroe or Brigitte Bardot who he had rescued from a life of crime.

Publisher Bob Guccione said Annika Dileonzo, who is charging the publisher with breach of contract, sexual harassment and fraud, came to him eager to pose nude for Penthouse and to work for him after seeing him on a talk show.

Americans have two opinions on abortions

LOS ANGELES, March 19, (UPI): Most Americans believe abortion is immoral but they also think the choice should be left to the woman and strongly oppose any constitutional amendments that would outlaw the surgery. The Los Angeles Times reported today.

The Times poll of 3,583 American adults revealed complex opinions about the emotional issue, seen as morally repugnant but also as a necessary evil and a last resort for desperate people.

A large majority thought abortion should be available if a woman's health is seriously endangered, in cases of rape or incest and if there is a strong chance of serious birth defect in the baby.

But 61 per cent felt abortion is "morally wrong," and 57 per cent think "abortion is murder," the poll found.

However, 74 per cent said the choice of whether to have an abortion should be left up to the woman, with 5 per cent undecided.

But 81 per cent agreed that minors should have parents' permission before having an abortion, and 53 per cent said the natural father's consent should be required.

Fifty seven per cent rejected the notion of abortion on demand, 80 per cent opposed it as a form of birth control, 51 per cent opposed it to avoid marriage, 49 per cent opposed it for a family who cannot afford more children, 54 per cent opposed it for married women who do not want more children.

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Spanish Basques march to call on ETA to extend truce

BILBAO, Spain, March 19, (Reuter): Tens of thousands of Spanish Basques marched through Bilbao in a silent peace plea to separatist guerrillas who have killed more than 600 people in a fight for independence.

Police said more than 200,000 people took part in the march on Saturday to persuade the separatist group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) to

extend indefinitely a two-month truce in its 21-year campaign.

"Asking for peace in the Basque country is telling ETA not to turn deaf ears any more to the clamour of society... to heed the verdict of the overwhelming majority," Jose Antonio Ardanza, president of the Basque regional government, told the crowd.

Ardanza, speaking as white

doves were released, said ETA should lay down arms definitively. "We don't want winners or losers, we want only peace."

Supporters of ETA, who plan a rival rally on Easter Day when the truce expires, did not respond immediately to the Bilbao march, which was described by residents as the largest seen in this north-western region of 2.2 million people.

Ardanza, speaking as white

Cyprus buffer zone stormed

Assad in Tunis

TUNIS, March 19, (AP): Syrian President Hafez Assad arrived today for talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, following stops in Algeria and Libya. Ben Ali met Assad at the airport. The two leaders are expected to discuss problems in the Middle East. The visit was not announced in advance and it was not known how long Assad would stay.

Paying too much

LONDON, March 19, (Reuters): Jordan is paying an inflated price for eight Anglo-German Tornado fighter-bombers and the deal has created a political row between London and Bonn, the Observer newspaper said today. Britain had become the world's second-largest arms exporter and was selling weapons to countries that could ill afford them, the newspaper added.

US envoy quits

NICOSIA, March 19, (Reuters): The US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Walter Cutler is retiring from the foreign service to join an American cultural organisation, a US embassy official in Riyadh said today. He succeeded Ambassador Hume Horan last August when Washington was expressing concern over Saudi Arabia's purchase of Chinese missiles.

Waldheim in UAE

ABU DHABI, March 19, (Reuters): Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in the UAE today billed as a dear guest and backer of Arab rights. The former United Nations secretary-general was met at the airport by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan as he began his four-day visit.

Fine imposed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 19, (Reuters): A tiny Jewish sect opposed to Israeli statehood said today it would pay a fine for illegally handling \$3,000 which it gave to a Palestinian hospital. Attorney Naftali Werzberger said the Bank of Israel imposed the fine of \$750 on Jerusalem's ultra-religious Neturei Karta sect, which regards creation of a Jewish state before the coming of the messiah as a sin.

Anti-AIDS campaign

MOGADISHU, March 19, (Reuters): Somalia is to launch its first nationwide campaign against the killer disease AIDS, the official Soma news agency reported today. It quoted Abdulkadir Haji Mohamed, assistant secretary of the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, as saying officials and the media should combine to educate and inform the public about the dangers of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Pakistanis fighting in Jalalabad, says Moscow

(Continued from Page 1)

March 10, Shoaib said. The rebels' claims could not be independently verified. But Jamiat is considered one of the strongest rebel military organisations and has been reliable in providing accurate information about the Afghan civil war in the past.

Shoaib said news of the defections came by wireless radio from units of Jamiat's well-known commander, Ahmad Shah Masood. Masood's troops control much of northern Afghanistan's Panjshir valley. The Salang Highway runs through the valley, linking Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, with the Soviet

Union to the north. Fighting reportedly continued today around the eastern city of Jalalabad where the rebels have launched their first major urban assault since the Soviet pullout. The United States is considering breaking ties with the Soviet-backed Kabul government without formally recognising the rebel government-in-exile, the

New York Times reported today. The Times said senior administration officials stressed that Secretary of State James Baker had made no decision but sentiment was growing within the administration that the time had come to cut diplomatic ties with President Najibullah's government.

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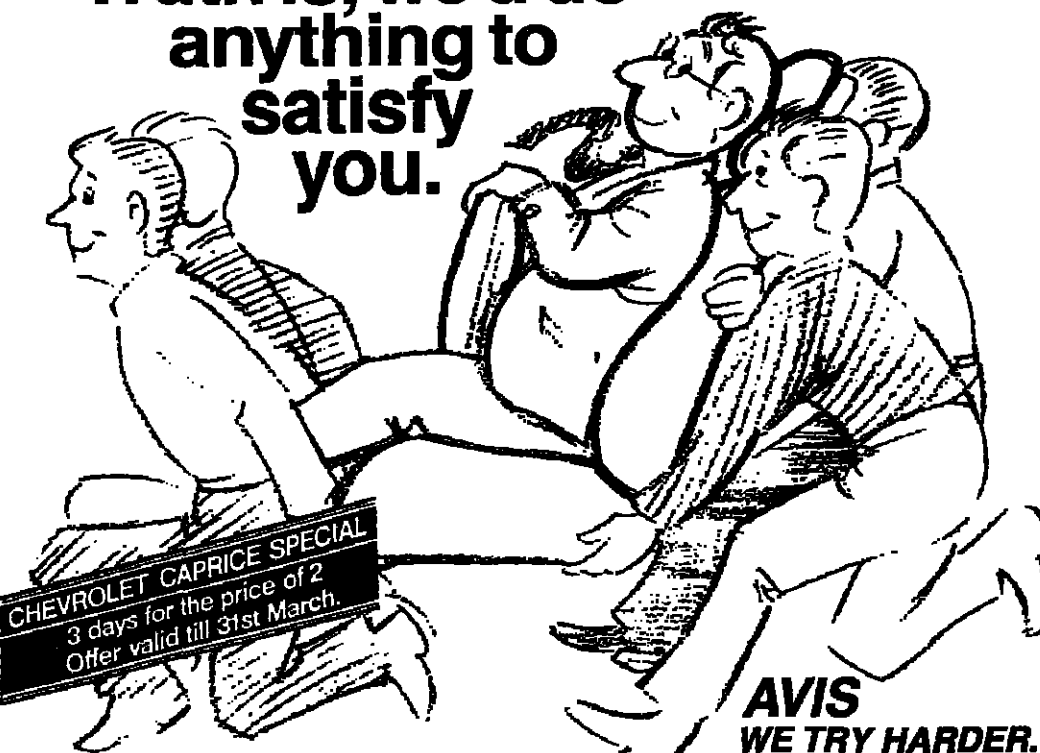
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BAHRAIN DIGEST

Improving telecom system

BAHRAIN Telecommunications Company (BATELCO) will spend BD96.8 million for development projects over five years in a bid to become the best telecommunications system in the Middle East and possibly in the world, according to Minister of Transportation, Ibrahim Humaidan.

While announcing the profits and spending programme at the general assembly of shareholders last Saturday, Humaidan, who is also the chairman of BATELCO, said the company made a profit of BD19.56 million in 1988, an increase of ten per cent over the preceding year.

The minister said the company will cut some telex charges by more than two-thirds starting May 1, in order to help boost business in Bahrain.

Rental charges of the Prefector M (with screen) telex machine are to be reduced from BD68 to BD20 a month. Other types are to be reduced to BD15 a month, as compared to the old monthly charges which ranged between BD27.50 and BD55.

Humaidan further added that private traders will be allowed to sell some telecommunication products after obtaining permission from BATELCO. These products include PABXs (exchanges) of up to 100 times and International Database Access Service (IDAS) terminals.

The board has also voted to increase its donations to charity from BD100,000 last year to BD120,000 this year.

According to the annual report, the telephone network in Bahrain increased by 11 per cent from 76,792 in 1987 to 86,000 in 1988. Telex connections dropped from 1,829 to 1,692 during the same period, while those for mobile telephones increased from 1,712 to 2,886.

Cochin to host Spice Fair '89

THE Spices Board of India is organising a Spice Fair '89 in Cochin from April 9-11 in association with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

According to N Bharathan Pillai, Director of the Board's Bahrain office, the main objective of the fair is to provide an opportunity for importers to know about the wide range of spices available in India, the standards of production and measures taken to maintain quality of the products.

The event is intended to provide a "direct interaction" between importers and exporters of Indian spices for transacting business and to exchange ideas regarding importers' requirements.

35 prisoners freed

480 contest in Tunisian polls

TUNIS, March 19, (Reuters): More than 480 candidates, from communists and capitalists to Islamic militants, began two weeks of campaigning today for parliamentary elections seen as a test of a new openness in Tunisia's politics.

Candidates from eight political organisations are contesting 141 seats in a Chamber of Deputies (parliament) which has been the exclusive preserve of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party since Tunisia's independence from France in 1956.

The April 2 elections are the first since President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali replaced ageing President Habib Bourguiba in November 1987 and the country sees them as a test of Ben Ali's pledge to open up the political system.

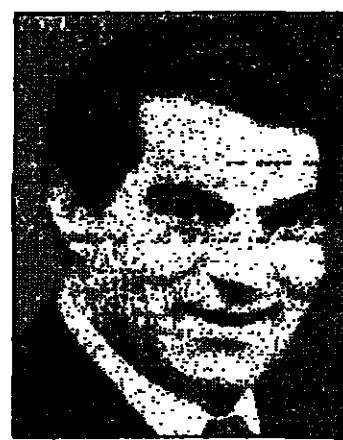
"It's our duty to prove to ourselves and to others that we are worthy of democracy and prepared to put it into practice. The campaign will be a test for us all," Ben Ali said this week. Ben Ali has freed 35 prisoners jailed on charges of plotting to overthrow Bourguiba, the official Tunisian news agency TAP reported today.

Mainly army officers and policemen, the group had planned to topple Bourguiba on Nov 8, 1987.

Opposition parties took part in the last two general elections in 1981 and 1986, but Tunisian officials admit they were rigged in favour of Bourguiba's Destourian Socialists.

Ben Ali has revamped the party, changed its name to the Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique (RCD) and ordered local authorities to ensure voting is fair and honest.

Of the 125 ruling party members in the old parliament, only 20 have survived an internal purge. RCD leaders said the



Ben Ali

grassroots of the party insisted the old ones should go. Much of the interest in the elections will lie in the performance of Islamic militants who in the last years of Bourguiba's rule bore the brunt of a crackdown on all his opponents.

Bourguiba excluded them from political life, driving many into violent opposition. Some were sentenced to death and some to long terms of imprisonment while others went into exile.

Ben Ali has already reinstated the militants but their Nahdha (renaissance) Party has not been licensed so they are contesting the elections as independents.

They are standing in 18 of Tunisia's 25 constituencies, while the main opposition party, the left-of-centre Mouvement Des Democraties Socialistes (MDS), has candidates in 21.

Other parties include the newly-created Social Party for Progress which favours free enterprise and Western-style liberalism, an Arab nationalist group, and the long established Tunisian Communist Party. The communists were ill-prepared for the elections and are taking part only in alliance with others.

Peace hopes

Egyptian flag flies over Taba beach

TABA, Egypt, March 19, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak, celebrating recovery of the last sliver of Egyptian land lost to Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, said today peace was not a tactic but a permanent ideal.

"Peace is not a manoeuvre to catch our breath," said Mubarak after he raised the Egyptian flag over Taba beach in Sinai. "Peace does not extend one hand while it hides a dagger behind its back with the other."

An Israeli woman in the crowd released two white pigeons to mark the event: the first official ceremony following Israel's withdrawal from Taba on Wednesday.

"No war after today — this is the hope that lives in every heart," Mubarak said. "Why can't we turn this hope into reality?"

Mubarak earlier honoured those who fell in four wars with Israel by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Cairo. He also visited the grave of President Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to make peace with the Jewish state.

Mubarak's statements appeared designed to serve the dual purpose of appealing to Egyptian patriotism and reassuring Israel. He did not mention Israel by name.

The Egyptian cabinet and dozens of other dignitaries attended the ceremony, broadcast live by state television.

Israel returned the 700-metre (yard) wedge of beachfront after international arbitrators decided in September it belonged to Egypt. It had retained Taba in 1982 when it pulled out of the rest of Sinai under the 1979 peace treaty.

Members of all four branches of Egypt's armed forces were on hand for the occasion.

One of Egypt's top Muslim theologians, Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, performed noon prayers before Mubarak arrived. Coast Guard boats sailed in Egyptian waters off Taba and an Egyptian helicopter flew overhead near the border.

"Blessed are the souls of martyrs with Taba's return," read one of the many placards around the fairground.

The Israeli-built Sonesta Hotel, overlooking the small beach and dwarfed by the Sinai mountains behind it, was operating smoothly today but at less than normal capacity due to cancellations.

Several tourists complained about delays at the new border crossing between Egypt and Israel.

Angry Muslims demand probe

BOMBAY, March 19, (AP): Thousands of Muslims paraded through the city demanding a judicial inquiry into last month's police firing on a mob protesting Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses.

Thirteen people were killed here on Feb 24 when police opened fire to stop defiant Muslims from marching to the British deputy high commission (consulate).

The crowd was demanding a ban in Britain on Rushdie's book, which many Muslims believe is blasphemous.

Soviet message

TEHRAN, March 19, (KUNA): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent a message to Iranian President Ali Khamenei, thanking for "the humanitarian" help it has extended to the victims of the Armenia earthquake last December.

No sign of Anderson's release

Four years of captivity in Beirut

WASHINGTON, March 19, (AP): Incredibly, it has been four years since the Saturday morning when word came from Beirut that Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, had been kidnapped by gunmen on the way home from a game of tennis.

At the time, it seemed to his editors and others among his colleagues that the kidnapping probably was an outrageous scare tactic aimed at reporters, and that Anderson would be held for a day, perhaps a few days.

That had happened before, to other journalists, in the chaos among the factions still battling in Beirut.

But the days stretched into four years with no sign of a way out.

The signal dates that might be chosen for release — a birthday,

then another and another; the presidential election; the inauguration of George Bush as US President — have passed with no respite for Anderson.

The first and only declared demand of his captors was for the release of radical Muslims imprisoned in Kuwait for terrorist activities.

Arms deal

In his inaugural address on Jan 20, President George Bush spoke of the hostages, Anderson and eight other US citizens seized after he was taken. Former US President Ronald Reagan seldom had spoken of their captivity since a scandal that embroiled his administration over the sale of arms to Iran. Three US hostages were freed in Lebanon during the arms deal period of 1985 and 1986.

"There are today Americans who are held against their will in foreign lands and Americans who are unaccounted for," Bush said. "Assistance can be shown here, and will be long remembered. Good will begets good will."

In an interview, Bush was more explicit, saying that he looked to a day of better US relations with Iran and saw the hostage issue as one that could help lead to such a thaw. He said that while Tehran clearly has influence over the captors, he is not certain the Iranian government has clear control over the hostage situation.

At the same time, Bush said there would be no change in the US policy against concessions or ransom to free hostages, a policy Reagan declared but abridged during the arms sales. "We are

not going to escalate the currency of holding Americans hostages," Bush said.

One gesture that could be made within that framework remains pending but stalled. It is the standing US offer of compensation to the families of 290 people killed when a US warship "mistakenly" shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Gulf on July 3, 1988.

Compensation

The State Department said the United States remains committed to compensation payments, but that Iran has not provided information about the families, data needed to determine payment levels and set up a distribution system. The US offer was to make payments directly to families, not through the Iranian government.

OBITUARY

MONTH'S MIND



Alex S. Fernandes (Rocky)

There will be a requiem mass for his soul on 21 3 89 (Monday) at 7.10 am at the Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait. Friends and relatives kindly accept this as only intimation.

Inserted by his sorrowful daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

REQUIRED

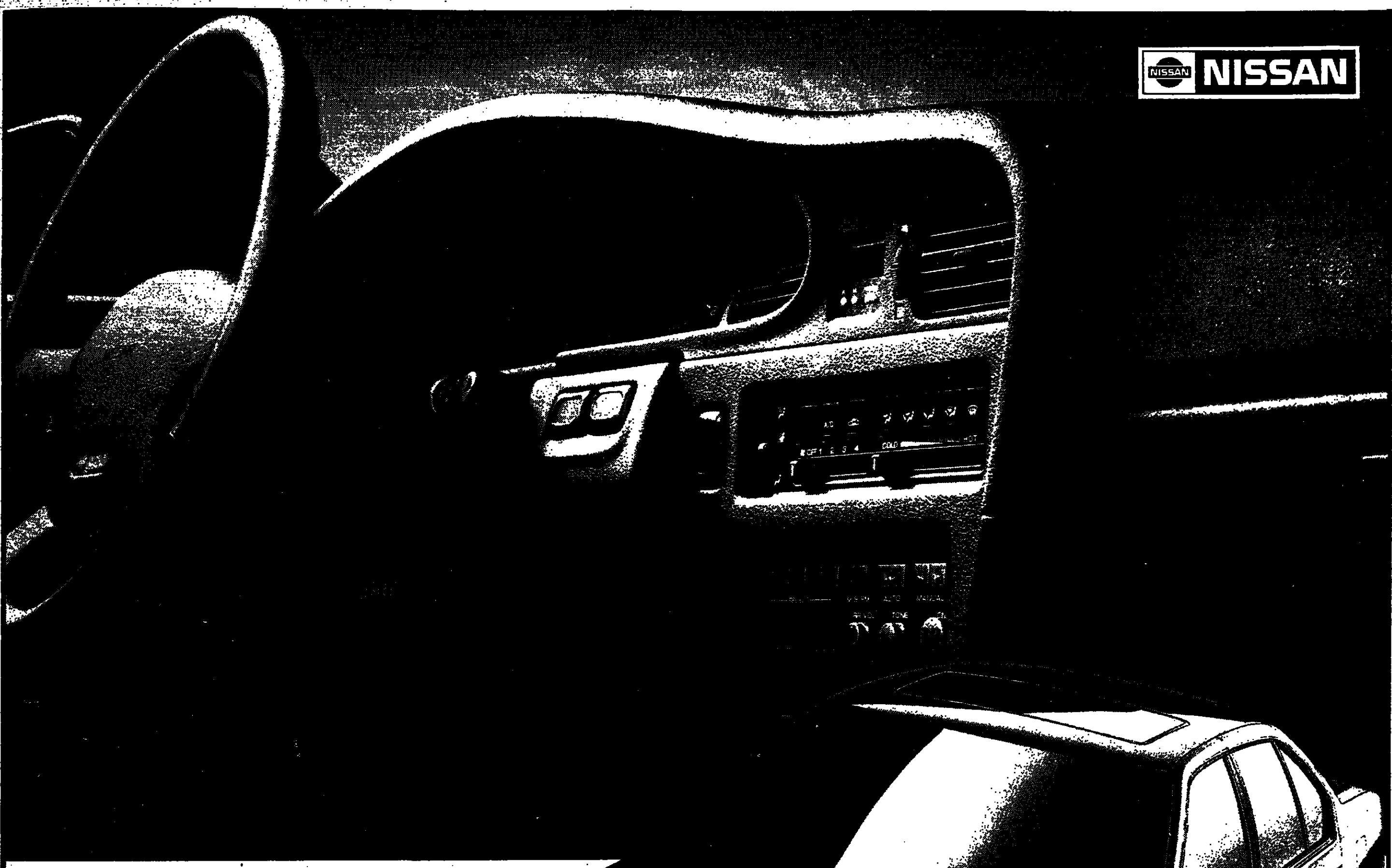
SALESMEN for selling Rico watches

DRIVERS: Having valid Kuwaiti driving licence.

All applicants should have valid transferable residence permit.

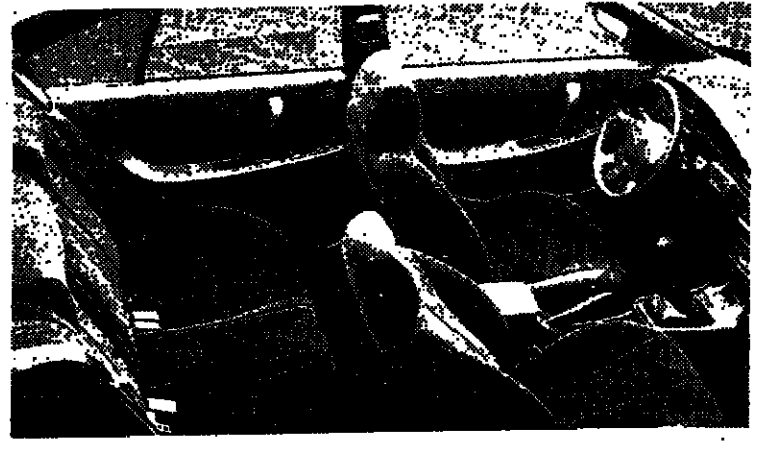
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE most manifest sign of wisdom is continued cheerfulness — Michel Montaigne, French essayist (1533-1592).

Release of report

Rajiv bruised

By Rajendra Bajpai

NEW DELHI. (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, beset in election year by squabbles in his party and allegations of government corruption, has taken yet another beating.

Yielding to furious opposition demands on Friday, he agreed to give Parliament a highly confidential report of a judicial investigation into the assassination of his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi in 1984. Opposition leaders trying to unite ahead of elections due by the end of the year crowded in delight. They had demanded to see the report after a newspaper said it pointed a "needle of suspicion" at Indira Gandhi's longtime aide R.K. Dhanwan.

Rajiv Gandhi sacked Dhanwan after taking power but recalled him last month as a key adviser.

The newspaper report thrust Parliament into turmoil with opposition members either suspended for taking part in wild scenes or boycotting sessions in sympathy.

As the furore spread to state assemblies, Rajiv said he would present the report to Parliament on March 27. The announcement stunned both the opposition and Rajiv's supporters, but politicians and analysts said it came too late.

Opposition leader Dinesh Goswami said that if Rajiv had not decided to present the report people's imagination would have run riot. This "can be dangerous in an election year," he added.

Rumours were already beginning to circulate that the report implicated Rajiv himself and his Italian-born wife Sonia.

"If he does not present the report people might imagine anything. The sky is the limit," Goswami said, adding that he should have presented the report "on the very first day."

Arun Nehru, Rajiv's estranged cousin and his onetime interior security minister, told the Sunday Mail newspaper Rajiv would have had to fight the entire country if he had continued to insist the report should remain secret.

"Sheer public opinion forced him... so it was not out of charity that he is doing it, he had no option," Nehru said.

Rajiv has had to live with the rough and tumble of Indian politics for the past two years and has often been bruised.

His reputation as "Mr. Clean" has been tarnished by allegations of government corruption and kickbacks in arms deals and there have been a series of election defeats.

Then in January, his party was humiliated in state elections in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The defeat led to party revolts in the important Hindi-speaking states of Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh from which he draws his political clout.

The appointment of Dhanwan generated further divisions. Nikhil Chakravarty, one of India's most respected columnists and analysts, said he believed Rajiv had come under pressure from his own party members to publish the report.

"Inside the party there is a strong section which feels there are good grounds for releasing the report," he said in an interview. "But it is very difficult to say what the consequences (of the publication) will be."

Chakravarty said Rajiv should have presented the report on Friday when he made the announcement because a gap of 10 days would lead to more questioning and suspicion.

The report was written by Justice M.P. Thakkar who investigated whether there was a conspiracy to assassinate Indira Gandhi, who was shot dead by her Sikh bodyguards.

Press review

Call to open borders

KUWAIT. (KUNA): A local daily has praised a recent commando operation against Israel across Jordanian border which it said had taken the Zionist authorities by surprise and urged Arab frontline states to open their frontiers for Palestinian armed struggle.

Palestinian commandos crossed into Israel from Jordan on Friday night and clashed with Israeli soldiers killing one and wounding another.

Commenting editorially the daily Al Rai Al Aam daily, commended the raid as a miracle totally unexpected by occupation authorities.

The assault was a complete surprise to the Israelis and would certainly lead to new differences and arguments among Zionist leaders who thought their entity was distanced from Palestinian commando raids," the paper said.

It called for opening of all Arab fronts for Palestinian armed attacks on Israel, stressing that current developments in the Middle East and the uprising in occupied Palestine necessitate such a move.

Al Rai Al Aam asserted that the Zionist entity does not want peace and said it is of the view that it can realise security through demolition of houses, deportation and jailing of freedom fighters and closure of universities and schools.

Amir has set a good example

KUWAIT. (KUNA): The daily Al Anba has praised HH the Amir for his patronage of national educational development, and encouragement of students to pursue applied sciences as well as theoretical studies.

"The Amir has set a good example for a leader who gives equal treatment to all graduates, be them from Kuwait University, technical institutes or Police Academy," the paper commented editorially. The daily stressed national development requires skilled hands in all fields, technicians being no exception, but on the contrary they are a very important element.

In attending the graduation of applied science students, the Amir sought to tell everyone that the government viewed them on equal footing with Kuwait University graduates. Al Anba went on.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1602 — United East India Company is chartered by states-general of Holland.
- 1616 — Sir Walter Raleigh is released from Tower of London to seek gold in Guiana.
- 1784 — Holland cedes Negapatam, Madras, India, to Britain.
- 1800 — French Army under J.B. Kleber defeats Turks at Helipolis, Turkey, and advances toward Cairo, Egypt.
- 1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte enters Paris and the "hundred days" begin.
- 1849 — Second Sikh war between Sikh and Britain begins in India: Ludhiana. King of Bavaria, abdicates.
- 1850 — Another Anglo-Kaffir war breaks out in South Africa.
- 1916 — Allies agree on partition of Turkey.
- 1942 — US General Douglas MacArthur declares "I shall return" to Philippines which he left for Australia during early days of World War II.
- 1952 — South Africa Supreme Court invalidates race legislation of D.F. Malan.
- 1956 — France recognizes independence of Tunisia, with Bourguiba as first president.
- 1957 — Britain accepts NATO offer to mediate in Cyprus but Greece rejects.
- 1972 — Nineteen mountain climbers on Japan's Mount Fuji are killed in avalanche.
- 1987 — Italian Air Force general is shot dead by two youths on motorcycle, and attack is described as work of Red Brigades terrorist group.
- 1988 — Honduran warplanes bomb Nicaraguan positions in rugged border area where Sandinistan troops were slow to withdraw to their country.

Jalalabad became famous during British military fiasco

Testing ground for invaders

By Oliver Wates

ISLAMABAD. (Reuters): Jalalabad, under siege by Afghan guerrillas in a major test of strength between the Western-backed rebels and the Soviet-backed government, first drew world attention nearly 150 years ago.

It was to Jalalabad that surgeon William Brydon spurred his flagging horse on Jan 13, 1842, to bring news of one of the British empire's greatest military catastrophes.

Of 16,500 British and Indian troops who began a retreat from Kabul a week earlier towards the end of a British-Afghan war, he was the only Briton to reach Jalalabad unscathed. A few Britons were taken prisoner but the rest, and almost all the Indians, died.

The British garrison in Jalalabad then had to endure a three-month siege, and an earthquake on Feb 19 that levelled most of the makeshift fortifications they had erected. A relief column came over the Khyber Pass in April.

The current siege of Jalalabad is the first test of strength between the rebels and President Najibullah's government since the final Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan on Feb 15. The prize is credibility.

The rebels need a major city in which to set up their provisional government. The Kabul administration needs to show it can survive without Soviet armed help.

"Psychologically and politically it is very important. If Jalalabad falls, the regime will have to reconsider its position and maybe leave Kabul," a rebel analyst in Pakistan said.

Jalalabad was once a pleasant place, with fine gardens and an almost Mediterranean climate. Citrus fruit, olives, rice and wheat still grow on the plain with the help of a big Soviet-financed irrigation system.

The former kings of Afghanistan built their winter palace there. One of them, the reformist Amanullah Khan (1921-29), is buried in the city.

The Pakistani pacifist Abdul Ghaflar Khan, who died aged 96 in January, asked to be buried there too. It was a symbolic end to his life-long struggle for unity of the Pashtun people who live on both sides of the frontier.

Estimates of the city's current population by Afghan and foreign analysts range from 50,000 to half a million.

Twenty years ago Jalalabad did not feature among the half dozen principal cities of Afghanistan. Since then other cities such as Kandahar and Herat have shrunk as people fled the war.

Jalalabad has been relatively quiet, attracting refugees from country districts ravaged by the fighting. It is now generally considered to be Afghanistan's third largest city, after Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

The results of the influx are slums of wooden huts and even tents. In early 1988, Jalalabad looked scruffy to visiting correspondents, with muddy streets, broken



Mujahideen ready for an assault.

pavements and beggars. The shops of the city's active Sikh community were hung with pictures of Indian film stars and filled with cheap produce from many countries.

Like other Afghan cities, Jalalabad presented two faces.

Clean-shaven men in Western suits and bare-headed women in skirts rubbed shoulders with bearded tribesmen in turbans, their wives swathed in the conservative Muslim's head-to-toe burqa (veil).

Since the Soviet withdrawal began last May, thousands of people have moved to the city from Laghman and Kunar provinces to the north as government troops withdrew.

Earlier this year some schools and colleges were closed to provide housing for the refugees, guerrilla sources say.

In some ways Jalalabad is an odd target. The city is in the middle of a flat plain, criss-crossed by irrigation canals and the Kabul river, which acts as a defence.

It is only a few minutes flying time from the big air bases at Kabul and Bagram, making it easy for Najibullah's forces to bomb the rebels.

Nangrahar province, of which Jalalabad is the capital, was traditionally a stronghold of Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the city can be expected to put up stronger resistance than most.

But it is also within easy reach of the border with Pakistan, where the rebels have their bases. The Khyber Pass crossing point at Torkham is only 75 km (45 miles) away.

The defenders set up a triple defence ring

and dug trenches around security posts. They formed defence committees and distributed arms to PDPA members and other loyalists.

Rebel and Pakistani experts estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 regular troops were in Jalalabad, but that militias and armed volunteers brought the total number of defenders to 20,000 or 25,000.

The rebels say many commanders are unwilling to try a head-on assault on Jalalabad because of expected heavy casualties. They favoured an assault against another city or an attempt to blockade the defenders into submission.

But the Pakistani military, which has armed and sponsored the rebels for years, put heavy pressure on them to go for a quick success against Jalalabad, the rebels say.

A place of crushed hopes for Tibetans

Waystation for exiles

By Earleen Fisher

DHARMSALA, India. (AP): For Tibetans, this is a place of crushed hopes and cherished dreams. It is a sanctuary far from the Chinese, who now rule their homeland, and close to their god-king, the Dalai Lama, himself an exile for 30 years.

High in the Himalayan foothills of north India, with big brown monkeys scampering across slate roofs and shaggy little terriers yapping in muddy streets, Dharmasala is a waystation for Tibetan activists who fled from the Chinese, a storehouse of Tibetan culture, a shrine for Buddhist pilgrims and a centre for plotting political strategies.

Sonam Tobgyal, a 47-year-old man with hard eyes and network of scars across his thumbs and knuckles, left Tibet six weeks ago because he thought the Chinese were on the verge of arresting him for pro-independence activities.

It was not fear of prison that made him leave, he said, but fear of torture that might cause him to betray others who were not yet under suspicion for organising demonstrations or slipping information to foreign travellers.

"I was getting known by the Chinese. One of my friends was arrested," he said, seated in the sunshine on a rooftop terrace. "I had to escape. People talk when they are tortured. If I talked, other people would be in danger."

Tobgyal said he knew about torture from the 11 years he had already spent in Chinese prisons in Tibet. Speaking through an interpreter, he said the scars on his hands were the result of beatings with wooden clubs and iron bars and being suspended by his thumbs from the ceiling for 15 minutes to an hour at a time.

He said he was released from prison in 1979 and started peddling clothing from village to village, a job that enabled him to spread news of upcoming anti-Chinese demonstrations.

Dekey is a rosy-cheeked, angelic-faced two-year-old who hugs strangers exuberantly and demands to be cuddled.

She was brought to Dharmasala from Lhoka, a town in southern Tibet, a year ago by a mother who returned home to the rest of her family and may never see Dekey again.

Dekey is one of 1,449 children between the ages of five months and 18 years who live in the stone bungalows at the Tibetan children's village on a ridge above Dharmasala. Some are orphans. Others have parents, either in India who for reasons of health or poverty are unable to care for their children, or in Tibet who smuggled them out so that they might be brought up in the Tibetan culture they say is being stifled by China.

The children's village, like so many things in Dharmasala from the Tibet Memory Restaurant to the Dalai Lama's Namgyal monastery, is dedicated to preserving Tibetan identity and — above all — the struggle for a Tibetan nation.

The Tibetans say they were never part of China, which invaded the Himalayan feudal theocracy in 1950 and annexed it a year later. China maintains Tibet has been an integral part of its territory for centuries.

Three decades ago a Tibetan uprising failed. The Dalai Lama, fearing he would be killed or captured and his people left leaderless, slipped out of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa on March 17, 1959, and fled across the Himalayas to India, where 100,000 Tibetans now live.

He formed a government-in-exile in Dharmasala, home to about 7,000 of his fellow refugees. Last June, in his biggest concession ever, he offered China control over Tibet's foreign policy and the right to keep troops on Tibetan soil in exchange for allowing Tibet to become "a self-governing democratic political entity... in association with China."

The Chinese rejected the proposal but said they were willing to talk to the Dalai Lama, although formal negotiations have yet to begin.

It is a measure of Tibetans' faith in the Dalai Lama that many people still believe he will win total freedom for Tibet, although the Buddhist holy man said repeatedly, as he did again in an interview last Thursday, "I am trying to find a middle way. We are not insisting on complete independence."

Nima Asse, a 51-year-old former resistance fighter who was captured by the Chinese in 1961 and imprisoned for nearly two decades, is one of the believers.

"I have full faith that the Dalai Lama will gain our independence. The Chinese will not be able to terminate the Tibetan race," said Asse, who left Tibet six months ago.

Asse, like Tobgyal, said he fled Lhasa because he thought he would soon be arrested. Their route was a well-established one, according to conversations with dozens of Tibetans in India.

The border between Tibet and India now is tightly guarded, but the border with Nepal is easier to negotiate because of the increasing volume of Chinese trade, they said.

Asse, Tobgyal and others said it was easy to hop out of the trucks carrying shoes and small manufactured goods, slip past Chinese checkpoints, rejoin the trucks, make their way over the Nepalese border and continue on to India.

Tashi, 12, reached Dharmasala five months ago. "My parents wanted me to go," he said. "My older brother had already been sent to China to study for three or four years. They wanted me to have a Tibetan education."

Tashi said he walked, hitchhiked or paid for lifts for 15 days until he got to the border. Then, he said, he gave money to Nepalese porters who dressed him in their clothing, gave him part of their load to carry, and he crossed the border unchallenged. Tibetan refugees in Nepal arranged papers that allowed him to cross the Indian border, he said.

After relating Tashi's story, an adult interpreter requested that the boy's other name not be published out of fear for the safety of his family still in Lhasa.

Despite his reverence for the Dalai Lama, who advocates non-violence, Tashi said he wanted to be a soldier when he grew up "so I can fight the Chinese."

To some adult Tibetans also, the Dalai Lama's way has failed for too long and offers little hope for the future.

Moscow makes inroads in Manila

By Kathleen Callio

MANILA. (Reuters): Moscow has made diplomatic headway with America's closest Southeast Asian ally by signing an agreement with the Philippines to expand trade and allow repair access for the Soviet fishing fleet.

The two countries signed an accord in Moscow last week, during a visit by an official trade mission from Manila, to boost commerce five-fold to \$200 million by 1992.

A senior Philippine Trade and Industry Department official said the visit had helped break down political barriers blocking expansion of economic ties with Moscow.

"There was a prior restriction that (the two countries) could not even talk business," said Assistant Secretary Feliciano Nacino. He said the visit signalled "the beginning of normal business transactions between the Philippines and the Soviet Union."

Soviet officials told Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion that Moscow would buy two dollars' worth of goods from Manila for every one dollar's worth it sold to the Philippines, Nacino said.

"It really signals the political will that they want to help," Nacino said. Concepcion gave the Soviet Union the go-ahead to open negotiations with Philippine shipyards for the repair of 120 fishing vessels at a total cost of \$8.4 million, the first time such access has been granted.

The two countries also agreed to continue negotiations on granting Philippine landing rights to the Soviet airline Aeroflot and allowing Philippines Airlines to fly over Soviet territory.

Five Soviet delegations are ready to visit the Philippines to talk about possible joint ventures and areas of economic and technical co-operation, including railway construction, power plant operation, investigation of coal deposits and co-operation in agro-industrial projects, Concepcion said.

He also said in a written statement that the Soviet Union had subcontracted for 100,000 pairs of shoes with a Manila shoemakers' association, which officials described as the single biggest local shoe order by any country.

Philippine-Soviet trade totalled \$40 million in 1987 and \$41 million in the first 11 months of 1988, according to Manila government figures. The United States and Japan are the biggest trading partners of the Philippines, which is seeking new markets for its exports.

Foreign diplomats describe the trade agreement as part of a diplomatic offensive by Moscow that has included sending a stream of delegations to Manila in the past two years.

In December, Eduard Shevardnadze met President Corason Aquino in the Philippine capital in the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister since the countries set up diplomatic ties in 1976.

The expanded ties are seen as serving both countries, with Moscow searching for new friends in Asia and Manila seeking bargaining leverage in talks with Washington on the continued presence of big local US military bases.

Leases on Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval station, Washington's biggest overseas installations, expire in September, 1991, and negotiations are expected to begin this year on whether the accord will be extended.

The Philippine Trade and Industry secretary said wider Soviet-Philippine ties should serve as an encouraging example of the role Moscow hoped to play in the region. "Concepcion noted that expanded bilateral trade will send a positive message to other Asia-Pacific countries about Soviet intentions in opening its eastern border to more trade," said a news release from his office.

Aquino has accepted an invitation to visit Moscow, but no date has been set. Her Foreign Secretary, Raul Manglapus, is scheduled to go there this year.

Suzanne Mubarak in her own right

By John Rogers

CAIRO. (Reuters): After years as a low-profile First Lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak is carving herself an increasingly prominent role independent of her husband.

But she goes about her work — promoting literacy and the interests of women and children — with none of the flamboyance that drew criticism for former First Lady Jehan Sadat.

"Suzanne Mubarak has the position but she's bright, dynamic, informed," said Edward Lannert, head of the UNICEF office in Cairo. "She's an outstanding woman in her own right, interested in Egyptian kids."

Award

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is giving her its top award in New York next month, the first time it has gone to an individual rather than an organisation.

She will receive the Maurice Pate Award, named after UNICEF's first executive director, for her work for children — which has included promoting literacy, campaigning for children's rights and heading an immunisation drive.

As the wife of President Hosni Mubarak, the 48-year-old First Lady has shunned the limelight to avoid the criticism sometimes levelled at Jehan Sadat — influencing state affairs and being too prominent for a woman in a traditional Muslim society.

She contrasts with Jehan in the same way that the muted style of her husband contrasts with the charismatic, high profile approach of the late President Anwar Sadat, assassinated by Muslim zealots in 1981.

Similarities

The two women do have some similarities. Both have fair complexions from their mothers, both Britons married to Egyptians. Suzanne Mubarak's mother was a nurse from Pontypridd, Wales. Jehan Sadat's Sheffield music teacher.

Both married young — the present First Lady at 17 when her husband was an Air Force lieutenant. Jehan Sadat at 16. Both went to university after their children went to school.

There the similarities end. Jehan Sadat, 55, who teaches in the United States but comes often to Egypt, was criticised by traditionalists for pushing women's rights.

Glamorous and stylish, she was an international celebrity. Her memoirs, "A Woman of Egypt," were published in 1987.

By comparison, Suzanne Mubarak is scarcely visible. More acceptably to Muslims, she generally stands behind her husband in public rather than alongside him.

"In Egypt, people don't like women to take a prominent role in public," said a young woman wearing an Islamic headscarf.

When her husband was Egyptian vice-president, Suzanne Mubarak hid her identity from teachers at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She studied political science and sociology there under her maiden name of Suzanne Thabet.

Her identity emerged only when she cut courses to accompany Mubarak on a visit to China and her professor saw a picture of her in a newspaper. Both her sons, Alaa and Gamal, born in 1960 and 1962, graduated from AUC to become bankers.

Serious

President Mubarak, 60, shuns the sort of personality cult that built up around Sadat. In the early years of Mubarak's presidency, his wife and daughters were scarcely reported and his first government biography did not mention her.

Over the past two years, press reports of her work have become more frequent, but she gives few interviews.

"She's very serious, very simple and very bright," said Mary Iskander, head of AUC alumni affairs who worked with Suzanne from 1980 to 1985 on the alumni council. "She behaved like one of us. She never made us feel she was the President's wife."

The First Lady rarely touches political issues, though she hit out at what she called misconceptions about the state of women in Islam at a UN conference on women in 1985, and urged women to cast their votes in 1987 parliamentary elections.

Her hobbies include reading, tennis, swimming and music and fashion experts say she dresses well.

"She's very classically and simply dressed but she's become more sophisticated over the years," said Cairo boutique owner Azza Wahba.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.



Dr. Ahmed Bishara

First Computer Conference to open March 27

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S First Computer Conference will open March 27 under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, according to Dr. Ahmed Bishara, assistant rector of Kuwait University for Scientific Affairs.

Speaking to journalists, Bishara said that the motto of the conference is: "Towards a New Generation of Arabic Software." The conference is to last for three days and includes 30 research papers — both in Arabic and English.

He added that the conference reflects the interest of Arab researchers in developing the use of the Arabic language in computer programmes.

Revolution

The last two decades have witnessed a quick revolution in developing computer programmes, simultaneously upgrading its capacities and decreasing costs, he said. The conference will stress on the success of the Arabic language in computers without adverse effects on the language.

The vital question among experts is to agree on a unified Arabic terminology, information and operational basis to be easily used by all Arab countries. This conference is an opportunity for all experts to exchange information and expertise in computers.

Four hundred experts from different countries as well as other regional and international organisations will participate in the conference, Bishara said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water conservation

A SENIOR Kuwaiti official has stressed the importance of public co-operation to assist the Ministry of Electricity and Water in limiting water consumption.

In an interview with a local daily, Dr. Homoud Abdullah Al Rqoba, the minister of electricity and water, said that Kuwait consumes nearly 130 million gallons of fresh water daily during the summer. This amount is equivalent to the storage volume of eleven football fields 10 metres high.

He added that in addition to this huge consumption, which greatly exceeds the consumption average of an individual, Kuwait consumes nearly 90 million gallons of brackish water daily.

This overuse of water costs the state huge amounts, in addition to contributing to the rise in underground water levels, Rqoba said.

Laboratories merge

THE Ministry of Public Works intends to merge the existing laboratories at its Roads Administration and Sanitary Engineering Department, according to Dr. Abdul Majeed Jarrah, head of the government laboratories and testing station.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the ministry had evolved a special set of standard specifications designed to protect buildings and installations from underground water leakages, including insisting on a series of pre-construction soil tests to be performed on proposed sites.

He added that the station, set up in 1952, is the sole official authority for conducting soil tests for the private and public sectors and for appraising the structural feasibility of government and private buildings.

Certificates to private and government establishments confirming the conformity of proposed building materials to standard specifications are also issued by the station.

WANTED

AGRICULTURAL SUPERVISOR
Experience preferred, with transferable residence and a valid Kuwaiti driving licence. Salary negotiable.
For interview, call 4815211

Lower salaries cause problems Reduce rents, say tenants

RESIDENTS living in flats in many areas have complained of the high cost of rents and said that an undue proportion of their salary is appropriated by landlords. The same theme has been echoed by local shopkeepers.

Both sections of society have called upon authorities to reduce rents charged by landlords. To buttress their claim, they pointed to the several residential complexes which are empty of tenants and shops due to exorbitant rents.

Salaries

The deteriorating financial situation of several companies has compelled them to reduce salaries, and it is only fair that the government should also reduce the rent rates, residents say.

Late payments of salaries by employers also causes inconvenience and often hardships to tenants, as landlords demand that their rents be punctually paid on the first of the month, tenants added.

Sheikh Saad chairs cabinet session

Briefing on regional issues

KUWAIT, March 19, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet today expressed satisfaction over the positive resolutions of the 18th session for the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference, most important of which was the call for backing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and granting Afghanistan's seat at the Organisation of Islamic Conference to the mujahideen movement, said State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed following the regular

weekly session.

Rashed said that the cabinet meeting, which was chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, listened to a report by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Saad Al Ahmed on the outcome of the said conference, which wound up last Thursday in the Saudi capital and briefed the cabinet on the issues discussed including peace efforts in the Arabian Gulf region, the situation in the

occupied territories and the crisis in Lebanon, in addition to matters of Islamic concern.

On the other hand, Rashed went on, Sheikh Sabah briefed his fellow ministers on the outcome of the emergency meetings of the Arab League Six-man Committee, which convened on the sidelines of the Riyadh conference to outline methods capable of containing the recent regrettable developments in Lebanon.

The cabinet also listened to a

briefing from Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed on the 17th Arab Labour Conference, which was recently concluded in Rabat.

Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, the oil minister, spoke on his talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdel Hamid Al Sheikh, who visited the country recently, which tackled means of co-operation in the fields of energy and petrochemicals.

For his part, Minister of

Industry and Trade Faisal Al Khaled informed the cabinet on his talks with Chinese Deputy Premier Tian Jiyun, who visited the country last week. The meeting focussed on reinforcing co-operation between the two countries in the investment, economic and trade spheres.

The cabinet also listened to a report by Electricity and Water Minister Homoud Al Rqobah on his talks in Baghdad, which complimented last month's visit of Sheikh Saad to Iraq.



Liquor brewers arrested

DETECTIVES of Ahmadi Governorate have arrested four Thai nationals on charges of distilling and trading in alcohol, the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department reported.

The suspects were caught red-handed selling the contraband to an undercover detective. A subsequent search of their residence revealed 16 large barrels and 19 cans of brewed liquor.

The accused, along with the contraband, have been referred to the authorities for further investigation.



Firemen battle the blaze at the furniture market. (Photo by Saud Farhan)

Fire caused by cigarette butt

Blaze destroys furniture market

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A HUGE blaze which lasted four hours destroyed the furniture market in Jahra yesterday.

The head of the Jahra Fire Department, Colonel Hamid Bahman, said he believed the fire was caused by a cigarette butt thrown by an unidentified smoker.

Firemen and police were alerted by passers-by who saw smoke billowing from the illegal market, located behind Jahra Hospital.

Thousands of dinars worth of furniture and carpets were destroyed in the blaze, as firemen

struggled from 5.30 to 9.30 am to put out the fire. The fire spread quickly through one empty cabin and three temporary prefabricated cabins housing furniture, carpets and other household goods, mostly unsold stock bought wholesale from furniture showrooms and made-in-Kuwait products, all sold at low prices.

The market, located in the middle of a farm area, was cordoned off by the police led by Major Zain Saud, who heads the Jahra Police Department.

The shop owners, who were operating without a licence from the Municipality, did not learn of

the disaster until 9 am when they opened shop. They had moved to Jahra from the 6th Ring Road after the Municipality had shut down their operation there.

The market was a popular hunt for bargain hunters looking for cheap, new furniture, who could find anything from electrical pin points to sofa suites and bedroom furniture.

The shops, while located on the 6th Ring Road, had been allowed to sell second-hand goods. But the market was shut down after shop owners were found selling new products at which time they moved their shops to Jahra.

Municipality detains Chilean grapes

Arab Times staff

THE Food Department at Kuwait Municipality has detained 500 boxes of grapes imported from Chile, a local daily reported. This action came in the wake of reports that Chilean grapes exported to the US had been poisoned.

The department will not release the produce until it has been tested for cyanide. Similar checks are regularly carried out on all other produce imported into Kuwait.

Inspection

Last year, the department inspected 1,926 samples of imported fruits, vegetables and other foodstuff. A total of 357 items were unfit for consumption and were destroyed. Additionally, 5,159 samples of local foodstuffs were examined, of which 80 items were destroyed. The department, last year, confiscated 7,374 tons of foodstuffs from the local markets, destroyed 2,054 tons and re-exported 24,903 tons to their countries of origin, the daily said.

Learner licences

TEACHERS will not be entitled to obtain car learner licences and this decision will be applicable to all teachers without exception, according to Brigadier Fuad Mussad Al Saleh, the director-general of the General Traffic Department.

He added that no teachers, regardless of sex, will be permitted to exchange their foreign driving licences for Kuwaiti licences.

Arab women's conference Focus on mothers

By Yakub Razzaque

THE Fifth Regional Arab Women's Conference opened in Bahrain, Saturday, at the Gulf Hotel. The four-day conference entitled 'Family, Reality and Ambition — Towards a Better Future' is being attended by delegates from nine Arab states.

The various papers, which are being presented, will focus on the role of women as mothers, the education of Arab women, their social and legal status, the impact of modernisation on family ties and the problems of Arab youth.

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who opened the conference, stressed the importance of women, as active members in the development process in the region.

He said the dramatic social and economic upheavals of modern life are clearly reflected in Arab women.

Conformity

In her opening speech, the chairwoman of the conference, Sheikh Luwa Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, head of Bahrain's Children and Mothers Welfare Society, emphasised the need of modern education in the region.

He added that no teachers, regardless of sex, will be permitted to exchange their foreign driving licences for Kuwaiti licences.

to conform to Islam and Arab culture.

Dr Zein Darwish, presenting the first paper, reviewed the study of the changes in family ties in the UAE between 1950 and 1980. He talked on the relationship between children and their parents based on factors relating to the impact of the economic boom as a result of the oil trade.

Education

His paper focused among other things on the impact of a higher secondary level of education on family ties and the failure of the study to consider the influence on family ties of the predominant foreign element in the region.

The paper also highlighted the objective of educating the average Arab woman on current issues of significance, through pamphlets and publications.

Dr Darwish proposed for a special conference to be held addressing the conditions of Palestinian women and children.

Dr Bahia Al Jishi spoke about the influence of television on Arab youth.

Meanwhile, a cultural exhibition is also being held as part of the conference, highlighting a variety of traditional dresses and handicrafts done by women.

GCC oil and power officials to meet in Manama

MANAMA, March 19, (GNA): The 7th meeting of the GCC National Petroleum Companies' Refineries officials will be held here March 25-27.

Discussion will deal with a number of pending issues relating to oil refineries and exchanging expertise and technical advice.

The meeting agenda contains a number of items on the proposed manufacturing of consumer spare parts for GCC refineries, the use of technology for upgrading refining output, and the development of manpower operating in the field of oil industries, as well as studying a number of reports submitted in this connection.

Co-operation

The GCC regional committee for power systems will hold a meeting here on March 29 to discuss ways of co-operation between member states in the field of electrical power and possible solutions to existing problems.

One problem which will be considered during the two-day meeting is the deterioration of insulators used for electrical cables due to local weather conditions, as these insulators are originally manufactured in countries with dissimilar climatic conditions.

Expertise

Views and expertise will also be exchanged concerning solutions to this and other problems with the aim of fostering co-operation among engineers in the member states and developing their potentials.

Meanwhile, GCC insurance specialists will meet in Muscat on March 28-29 to discuss the feasibility of establishing a GCC re-insurance company.

Training course

A TRAINING course in planning, the first of its kind to be held in an Arab country, is being organised in co-operation with the Kuwait-based Arab Planning Institute and UNESCO's Regional Co-ordination Unit for Development and Follow-up.

In an interview with KUNA, Sulaiman Al Einazi, Secretary General of the Kuwait National Committee for Education, Science and Culture, said that a course on implementation, follow-up, and the evaluation of educational schemes in the Arab countries which opened March 18 will continue until March 30.

The course aims at linking educational schemes to comprehensive development plans. It will include several lectures on the integrated planning process, the preparation of the educational schemes and the implementation of related projects.



Wrigley's/Ashkenani Store Co. wholesale meeting

ON the occasion of the bakkala distribution drive when the Ashkenani Store Co. will display another 500 sales stand for Wrigley's chewing gum (Abu Sahem Al Asli) in bakkalas, this 1st wholesale meeting was held in an old Kuwaiti traditional way. Presentation was held in a Bedouin Tent near SAS Hotel followed by traditional Kuwaiti Sword Dance and bedouin barbecue in front of the tent.

During the meeting attended by Mr J. van Duinen general manager Wrigley's and Mr R.J. Buddenberg area manager Middle East, market relation-

ship of Wrigley's (Spearmint, Doublemint & Juicy Fruit) in the chewing gum market in Kuwait was presented to the wholesalers. Specially, Doublemint & Juicy Fruit the number 2 and 3 brands of Wrigley's alone are already more successful than any competitor in Kuwait.

Wrigley's pointed out that the market relationship was achieved with Kuwaiti wholesalers and trade and that they look forward to build the relationship to satisfy consumer demand.

Weird global weather— is it a sign of the future?

By David W. Jones

NAIROBI, Kenya. (UPI): No one is worrying about a predicted global warming trend these days in Alaska, where an unprecedented high pressure zone in January sent temperatures plummeting so low they could not be recorded on thermometers.

But try telling that to ski resort operators in the Swiss Alps, who have had to shut down operations in the face of one of the warmest, driest winters on record including a 68-day period without rain or snow—the longest dry spell in 125 years of record keeping.

Winter likewise is little more than a memory in Scandinavia and Japan, both of which experienced the mildest January since they began keeping track of temperatures in the 1800s.

In Argentina, where it is summer, temperatures soared far above normal in January accompanied by drought conditions reminiscent of last year's dust bowl in America's Midwest, while in tropical Maracaibo, Venezuela, temperatures dove from a normally steamy 104 (40° C) to a cool 50 (10° C)—the lowest in a decade.

And up and down the coast of East Africa, rain has been falling steadily through what is supposed to be the dry season, producing bumper crops in countries where a few years ago thousands of people died from starvation.

Unusual

"The weather this year is extremely unusual, in ways that grip the imagination," said Peter Usher of the United Nations Environment Programme. "It is almost a case of rather than look for someplace where the weather is unusual you look for someplace where it is normal."

Usher, the chief meteorologist at UNEP's world headquarters in Nairobi, is no alarmist. Cautious and conscientious, he is quick to point out that people have short memories when it comes to the weather, and everyone thinks he knows more than the weatherman.

Yet, he conceded in a recent interview, "the weather conditions this year may be unique. I cannot recall a year in which more countries have experienced unusual weather at the same time and have recorded new absolutes (all-time highs and lows)."

Recent weather "anomalies" noted by Usher:

- the drought of 1988 in America's grain belt;
- unseasonal rainfall in Africa after decades of drought;
- extremely mild winter throughout Europe, breaking all-time records in Scandinavia and elsewhere;
- major Caribbean storms last fall of unprecedented ferocity;
- the Alaska cold snap that sent barometric pressure so high and temperatures so low that neither could be reliably recorded;
- an extremely wet summer in Japan followed by the warmest winter in 110 years of record-keeping, with similarly mild weather in Korea;
- unusual dampness, cloud and rain in South Africa, where warm dry weather is normal for this time of year;
- drought and unusually high temperatures in Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil, with drought conditions also in Chile;
- an unusually cold winter in Venezuela, both in coastal Maracaibo and in the highlands at Caracas, with temperatures dropping more than 27 degrees (15° C) below normal;
- an unusually warm Southern Hemisphere summer in Peru along with the heaviest rainfall in five years causing flooding and crop loss.

Does all this herald the arrival of the long-predicted 'greenhouse effect', a global warming trend caused by industrial pollution that trap the sun's energy in the atmosphere?

Usher said some scientists are convinced it is, among them such climatologists as James Hansen of NASA, who testified to that effect before Congress last year.

Others point instead to 'El Nino' and its counterpart 'La Nina,' warm and cold bodies of water that settle in the Pacific Ocean off Peru and upset circulation patterns in the atmosphere, creating havoc with the weather as far away as Africa.

Most of the effects are within the normal range of probability, Usher said, "but we cannot ascribe all that is happening with any certainty to any one cause. It may be a mixture of causes, including some we don't even know anything about."

Greenhouse or not, however, the world is in for more weird weather.

"The climate will change in the near future, even if it has not changed now," Usher said. "This year's anomalies, even if not the result, are an example of what will happen when the climate changes, and will occur year after year."

"The precursor of the greenhouse effect is increased volatility in the weather," he said. "There will be many variations that are both warmer and colder than average."

Usher noted man has already increased earth's carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 50 per cent since the beginning of the industrial age and will increase them by that much again in the next 40 years.



The precursor of the 'greenhouse effect' is increased volatility in the weather. Recent weather anomalies all around the world may be a warning that the long-predicted global warming trend caused by industrial pollution may be on our doorstep.

"We have already committed ourselves to climate change even if we changed the way we behave today," he said. "Our only choice is to limit the extent to which the climate will eventually change." Despite his concerns, Usher said he and other climatologists are trying to resist the "disaster movie syndrome."

"People like to be frightened (and) to some extent we are pandering to them by giving them disaster scenarios," he said.

"We have a problem, but we have an opportunity to solve that problem if we don't panic... the end of the world is not nigh—we have abused the environment, but we have the means to repair it."

Ozone problem: some vital facts

FAILURE to save the ozone layer could mean the end of the world, scientists have warned.

The only greater threat to our existence is nuclear war, a world doomwatch conference was told last week in London.

CFC gases are punching holes in the ozone and causing the danger of death from the sky.

Nearly 600 delegates from 118 nations, gathered in London, also discussed global warming which is leading to rising sea levels and flooding in low-lying countries.

This is caused by the "greenhouse effect" fuelled by carbon dioxide pouring from coal-fired power stations.

Here, are some answers for the key questions which are concerning the public.

What is ozone?

A. A toxic, bluish gas, a form of oxygen. Ozone appears in acid rain and destroys life.

Q. Given it is a poisonous gas, why is the ozone layer vital?

A. In the stratosphere—up to 50 kilometres above Earth—it provides a life-saving screen which absorbs and blocks harmful ultra-violet radiation. It is a delicate parasol against the sun's killer rays.

Q. What is the danger of ultra-violet light to humans?

A. It causes potentially killer skin cancers, eye cataracts and blindness in up to 15 million people. And it harms the immune system, increasing the risk of infectious diseases.

Q. Can it harm plant life?

A. It can cut rice yields, other food crops and trees. But it also depletes aquatic life and micro-organisms which support the rest of creation.

Q. What are the danger chemicals attacking the ozone layer?

A. They are called chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs).

Q. Where do we find them?

A. About 30 per cent are used in fridges, freezers and air conditioners; 25 per cent in aerosol sprays; another 25 per cent in blowing up foams for various uses from buildings and cars to fast-food containers; and the remaining 20 per cent for cleaning and other purposes.

Q. What would happen if the ozone layer disappeared?

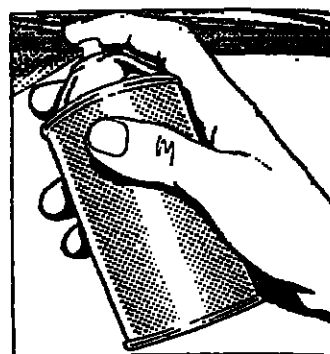
A. Ultraviolet light would sterilize the surface of the globe, eliminating all earthly life.

Q. What is the Ozone Hole?

A. In the spring, a "hole" opens up in the layer over the Antarctic as big as the USA and as deep as Mount Everest.

Q. Is there another hole?

A. No but the North Pole is



The earth: set for climatic changes

primed ready for destruction.

Q. What steps have been taken to solve the crisis?

A. In 1985, the discovery of the Ozone Hole by a British scientist set alarm bells ringing which led to the Montreal Protocol two years later.

Q. What is the Montreal Protocol?

A. An agreement signed by 32 countries and the EEC—82 per cent of world CFC consumers—to regulate the danger substances and provide trade sanctions against nations not joining the treaty.

Q. Who is holding back?

A. Mainly Third World nations. But at the London conference Hungary, Austria, the Philippines, Malaysia, Zambia and Trinidad agreed to be bound by the Protocol.

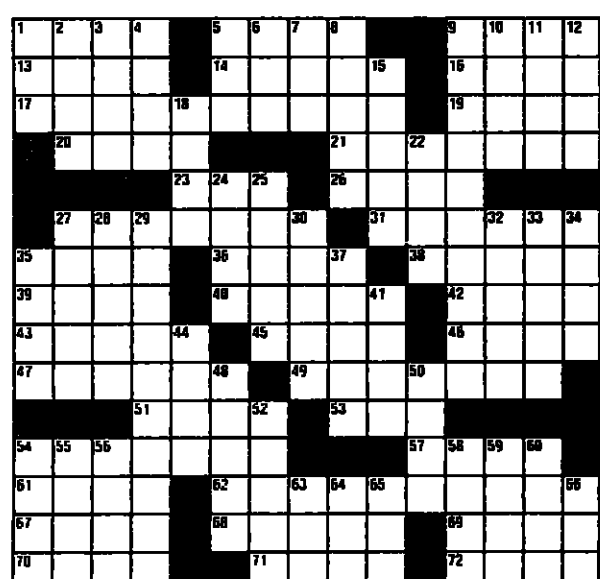
Q. Are there alternatives to CFCs?

A. Yes, HFCs which replace the chlorine with hydrogen.

Q. What are spray can companies doing to help?

A. The British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association are leading the field and have pledged to reduce the use of CFCs, and make 90 per cent of their sprays CFC-free by the end of this year.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Agreement
 - Mimic
 - Command to Gabriel
 - Repeat
 - Sweetie
 - Byway
 - Symbol of drudgery
 - Dog star
 - Sword
 - Farmer's need
 - First mother
 - Grump
 - Err in cards
 - Like some tables
 - Superficial brilliance
 - on it
 - Old hat
 - Hodgepodge
 - What means
 - Mid-east sultanate
 - Antelope
 - Winning margin
 - Tennis needs
 - Salvage
 - Remote region, informally
 - Large amount
 - Wind dir.
 - Back up
 - Barges into
 - The last word
 - Destitute
 - Sound the bell
 - Heating vessels
 - Persia, today
 - Henn ending
 - Urges
 - Picnic buttinskys
- DOWN**
- Clothespin, in Britain
 - Land measure
 - Poker or potato
 - Pitch

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

EVAS ATONE TEAR
PELE BIPED URGE
IRAN STERE RIEL
CARAMEL ONAGERS
TUNED TRI
ACCOST INACTIVE
SHARE LIT ERIN
SIR SEPALED EST
ENOS VET RENTE
TEMPLATE LINEAR
ION DEALT
SCENTED SPLINES
HOLD SORTS COLE
ORAL COOEE EASE
PANE EMIRS SHAM

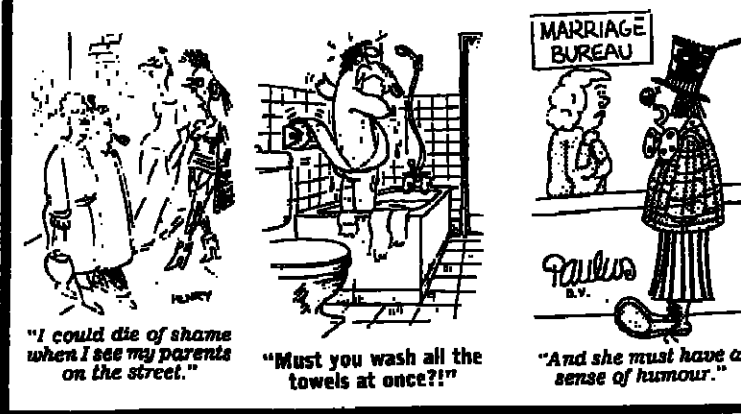
GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠32 ♥A1093 ♦A65 ♣AQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you respond?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠32 ♥A1093 ♦A65 ♣AQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠32 ♥A1093 ♦A65 ♣AQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you respond?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠72 ♥954 ♦KQ10953 ♣84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠762 ♥AK3 ♦954 ♣AQJ8
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ9 ♥AJ6 ♦K1052 ♣KQ3
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?



"It's his first time."

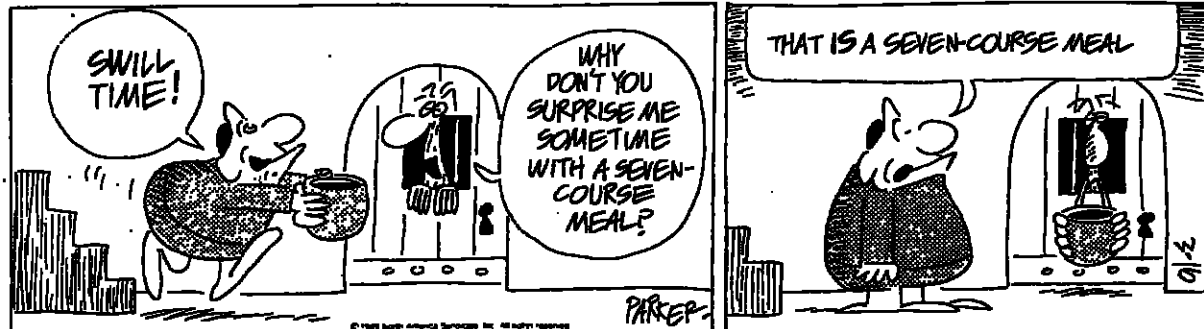


"I could die of shame when I see my parents on the street."

"Must you wash all the towels at once?"

"And she must have a sense of humour."

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will have to keep your wits very much about you. You should not rely entirely on your memory. Do make notes. Make sure you do not do anything that would be bad for your health. Be honest.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will be able to see things a little more clearly. Something you have been learning will begin to make sense. But there is a lot more to learn. You should not tamper with anything electrical. Be reliable.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
As you get older it will require more effort to learn but only when you think you are too old to learn are you. You should not take things quite at their face value. Keep your eyes on what you are doing and your ears open. Be tolerant.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You will come to learn that computers too are only as good as those who operate them. The influences are more favourable to you but, only if you work hard. Leave yourself with a sufficient margin for error. Be generous.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You should not leave all the loving to your partner. Play your part too. Better to do one thing well than two things less than well. Take the best possible care when on the road. Be patient.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
If something keeps going wrong you may well be using the wrong approach. There is no point in losing your temper with yourself. Instead try harder to keep your mind on the job. Avoid just hoping for the best. Be sincere.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
You will feel rather sorry for yourself—think of how much worse things could well have been. Now is a good time to take the initiative but make sure you are heading in the right direction too.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
You should have a little more faith in yourself. There is no reason to doubt your abilities, only do make sure you do not dither. Try not to let anything upset your peace of mind. Be hopeful.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
You should not abandon your principles and you must have the courage of your convictions. Your lucky numbers are 43 and 33. If you are going on a journey do not leave arrangements until the last minute.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
You should beware of exaggerations and you should keep to certain limits. Avoid tension if you do not want to ruin your health. Do not jump from one thing to the other. Be cordial.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will make fewer mistakes in applying a new skill but you must still take care. Mars' influence will help you to achieve something you have set your mind upon. You should not neglect your emotions.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
The Moon's influence will help you to organise things better. Do not expect others always to do what you would wish them to do. Do not try to evade your responsibilities. Be firm.

مكتبة مصر

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Banks may seek government guarantees to invest in Iraqi projects

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S banks and private sector firms interested in Iraq's development programme are likely to seek government guarantees before putting up funds for projects, according to MEED's Middle East specialist Jonathan Cruse.

Cruse thinks it unlikely that Kuwait's government will come forward with such guarantees, however Kuwait, like the majority of Arab states, does not have a national export credit guarantee agency.

Cruse is the author of a Business Report on Iraq 1989 which he recently presented in Kuwait.

Contractors

Kuwait's contractors have sought assurances from the government that it would provide them with payment guarantees if they were to participate on projects in Iraq, but have not had any response.

Representatives from the Gulf states' contractors unions visited Iraq in November and were told that priority will be given to firms which can finance their own work. Iraq, which is facing

short-term problems in raising financing, told the Gulf contractors that it would not be able to pay them promptly and proposed payments to be made in instalments.

Starting about next June, however, Arab contractors seeking payment guarantees for construction work in Arab states will be able to turn to the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation.

The corporation is preparing to issue service guarantee contracts which will cover the total value of a construction project including transportation, civil works and consultancy. Mohamed Chouari, head of the corporation's investment guarantee division told the Arab Times.

The corporation will continue to provide contractors' equipment guarantee contracts, which cover contractors' equipment used in the host country by the guaranteed party to implement the project.

Risks

Set up in 1974 by the Arab League members, the corporation provides guarantees against non-commercial risks for Arab investors. Under this

scheme it provides compensation for losses emanating from non-commercial risks such as expropriation and nationalisation, convertibility and wars.

The corporation also offers export credit guarantees aimed at promoting inter-Arab trade by assisting Arab exporters in striking deals with Arab importers. Only new projects can be submitted for the agency's consideration.

Chouari said the corporation is seeking to dispel fears of those investors who hesitate to enter certain markets. Iraq, with its short-term financing problems, could be among these markets, but Chouari said the corporation, which has been active in Iraq throughout the war, has not faced any problems in that country.

Credit

The corporation provided export credit guarantees for Arab exports to Iraq, which included goods ranging from petrochemicals to ready-made garments.

Chouari based his hopes for Iraq's economic recovery on its vast oil reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia's in the world, and the abundance of other resources such as water and arable land, as well as Iraq's economic reforms which

aim to promote the role of the private sector.

But he pointed out that the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation is not a bottomless pit.

"We have guarantee ceilings which correspond to a percentage of our paid-up capital, and which also depend on the type and size of the operation," said Chouari.

Support

Kuwait's contractors are not the only ones seeking export credit guarantees. Private sector firms from some of the industrialised countries, to which Iraq owes billions of dollars, are putting pressure on their governments to strike deals with Baghdad which would help them maintain a presence on the Iraqi market.

Iraq has made it clear that a priority in project allocation will be given to firms from countries with which it has trade agreements and protocols, and from the Arab states which supported its war effort. But Cruse says that firms which can provide financing and bid low will fare best.

Japanese firms which have had no government support but are keen on maintaining a share of the Iraqi market

have been forced to raise commercial loans from non-Japanese sources.

Iraq, whose commercial debt is estimated at \$25 billion, has sought additional credits from industrialised countries to which it already owes vast amounts. It said new credits would help it make repayments and provide funding for new contracts and imports. "Iraq is looking for some sort of quid pro quo arrangement," says Cruse.

It might have got just that when West Germany opened a new line of credit to Baghdad. West Germany has released a total of DM300 million in three separate stages and is being repaid in oil, according to Cruse.

Britain, which since 1984 has supplied Iraq with more than £1 billion in trade finance, will this year extend its line of credit to the tune of £340 million in response to Baghdad's timely repayment of its debt to the UK.

The US this year supplied Iraq with more than \$1 billion, mainly in agricultural credits, thus becoming Iraq's No. 1 trading partner. The US views Iraq, which made timely repayments of previous agricultural loans, as one of its best customers, Cruse said.

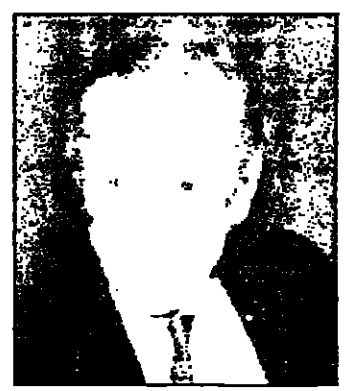
Call to boost IMF capital to participate in debt plan

WASHINGTON, March 19, (UPI): The International Monetary Fund's resources of capital should be increased to fully participate in the Third World debt reduction plan proposed by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, an IMF official said.

The IMF needs to both double its capital and issue new SDRs, the Special Drawing Rights that serve as the IMF's accounting and reserve unit, to keep up with the Brady plan, the official, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday.

"Taking into account the changes in the international economy over the past five years, the IMF needs a 50 per cent increase in quotas," he said.

Last week, Brady advanced ideas for the reduction of Third World's debt with private banks using IMF and World Bank loans and guarantees. Yet, the Treasury opposes an increase in IMF quotas, its capital, or a new



Nicholas Brady

issue of SDRs. "I would be surprised if I was pushed to overspend" to help Mexico reduce its foreign debt of more than \$100 billion at this moment, the official said. "What would happen if we used up our resources to help Mexico, and were left without any money for Sierra Leone?"

Energy File

American oil demand flattened out in February

NEW YORK, March 19, (UPI): US oil demand flattened out in February to the same level of a year ago after rising by an average of over six per cent in the previous three months, the American Petroleum Institute said yesterday.

Domestic crude oil production continued to decline in February as imports remained at high levels.

Overall demand for oil in the United States, the world's largest oil-consuming nation, inched up less than one per cent to 17.6 million barrels a day in February from 17.5 million barrels a day in the same month last year, the oil industry trade group said.

The slowdown in February oil demand after three months of robust growth primarily reflected a 1.5 per cent drop in gasoline deliveries and a nine per cent decline in demand for residual fuel that is used by industry to run plants and by utilities to generate electricity.

Lowest

"February is traditionally one of the lowest months of the year for gasoline deliveries, but this February's deliveries dipped more than normal," the API said.

Gasoline demand fell 1.5 per cent to 6.8 million barrels a day last month from seven million barrels a day in the prior February.

■ **ADEN**, March 19, (Reuters): Iraq and South Yemen have agreed to increase the amount of Iraqi oil refined in Aden from the current 15,000 barrels per day, the Aden News Agency said yesterday.

The agreement was signed on Friday by visiting Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi and Minerals and Energy Minister Saleh Abubaker Bin Hussainoun.

The news agency told Reuters the ministers also agreed on an exchange of visits by oil experts and on training for South Yemeni students in Baghdad.

Oil projects

■ **NICOSIA**, March 19, (Reuters): Iran's Parliament authorised the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to invest all its operational profit during the next Iranian year beginning on March 21, Tehran radio reported on Friday.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the measure was approved in a rare Friday meeting of the assembly held to finish debate on next year's budget bill before the New Year starts.

It did not give a projection for NIOC's profit which it said could be invested in oil, gas and petrochemical projects.

Oil exploration

■ **CARACAS**, March 19, (OPECNA): Maraven, a subsidiary of PDVSA, the Venezuelan national oil corporation, will explore for oil off Aruba island, under a contract to be signed later today with the national oil company of Aruba.

Maraven, the international oil exploration firm, will explore the territorial waters of Aruba, a small island located close to Netherlands Antilles, off the Venezuelan coast.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr Cestino Armas and PDVSA president Juan Chacin are scheduled to travel to the nearby island for the signing of the contract.

Maraven said drilling activities would begin within 18 months.

French firms hope for lucrative contracts in Iraq

Companies press Paris to ease conditions

PARIS, March 19, (Reuters): French companies hoping for lucrative post-war contracts in Iraq are pressing Paris to ease conditions for rescheduling Baghdad's estimated \$6 billion debt to France.

"If the government does not realise that Iraq is potentially the best market in the Arab world then I must say we are being misinformed," said Pierre Parisot, managing director of French civil engineering and construction firm Soega.

"Certainly the business community is making this point clear to the government," Parisot said after a weekend seminar on post-war reconstruction in Iraq.

His company has completed a food processing plant in Baghdad, costing \$1 billion.

The stakes have risen even higher and Iraq is wasting no opportunity to tempt French exporters with big contracts now that its eight-year war with Iran

is over. Iraqi Ambassador Abdoul Rezak El Hashimi told the seminar his country would remember companies that stayed in the Iraqi market during the war that ended eight months ago.

"The French companies are those who stayed during the war and we want them to take their place in the Iraqi market during the coming years," he said.

Debts

Businessmen at the meeting said the French government credit agency Coface, following a hard line taken by the Finance Ministry, was refusing further cover for French exporters until Iraq repaid some of its debt.

Most estimates put this at \$6 billion, with debts to French companies accounting for about a third. The rest is owed to government.

Experts from the two countries met in Iraq last month to work out a rescheduling accord.

Hashimi said a follow-up meeting in Paris this month had not taken place and talks were continuing on a diplomatic level.

A French businessman told Reuters: "What the Iraqis want now more than anything else is for France to make a political commitment on its faith in Iraq."

Analysts said France looked certain to yield to this pressure, not least because of its huge debt in Iraq but also because of political uncertainty in Iran.

Moves

Paris has halted moves towards closer ties with Tehran which would have opened the reconstruction market there to French firms.

It joined other European Economic Community countries last month and recalled its top envoy from Tehran because of the call by Ayatollah Khomeini for the death of British author Salman Rushdie, accused by Muslims of blasphemy.

Despite economy cooling down

Inflation still has grip on US

WASHINGTON, March 19, (Reuters): An unexpected rise in wholesale prices shows the US inflation rate is still rising despite previous evidence that the economy is cooling down, according to an official of the Federal Reserve.

"You can have a slowing of growth in the economy but not enough to take the edge off inflationary pressures," according to the official, who declined to be identified.

Increase

The government announced on Friday that US producer prices, a gauge of wholesale inflation, rose one per cent last month.

The increase, twice as big as

the forecast by economists, revived fears that the economy was overheating and that higher interest rates would be needed to cool it.

The official said the monetary policy followed by the Federal Reserve—the US equivalent of a central bank—would continue to err on the side of restraint.

The February price rise, after a big increase in January, was particularly worrying because of its widespread nature, he said, adding that he saw little comfort in the figures.

The news hit the stock market badly, just as investors were beginning to sense an end to the year's inflationary trend and to believe that the Federal Reserve

was slowing the economy after tightening credit for more than a year.

Stocks and bonds fell to their widest losses of the year on Friday.

A series of economic figures issued last week appeared to show the economy was cooling down. The government announced that retail sales and housing starts fell in February and industrial production was flat.

Several Federal Reserve governors said the figures pointed to a moderating economy but the official said the Fed must decide whether growth was slowing to a pace that could be sustained without causing price increases.

Ford vice-chairman to retire

FORD Motor Company vice-chairman William Clay Ford has announced his retirement from the company founded by his grandfather, Henry Ford, and which he has served for 40 years.

Ford, who has just turned 64 will retire at the end of this month. He will remain a member of the board of directors and chairman of the finance and executive committees. He has been a board member since 1948 and chairman of the company's design committee since it was formed in 1957.

"We will miss Bill Ford's contribution to the management of the company," said Ford chairman Donald E. Petersen. "I am grateful, however, that he has agreed to remain a member of the board of directors and chairman of the finance and executive committees so we can continue to benefit from his counsel."

Ford joined the company's sales and advertising staff in 1949. He later served on the industrial relations staff. He became quality control manager for the Lincoln-Mercury Division Jet Engine Defence project in 1951.

In 1952 Ford was appointed manager of special product operations in charge of a group of engineers and designers engaged in advanced planning for the Continental Mark II, successor to the classic Lincoln Continental developed under the direction of his father, Edsel B. Ford. Special Products Operations became the Continental Division in 1954.

He subsequently assumed responsibility for corporate product planning and design and was appointed vice-president—product design in 1973.

He subsequently assumed responsibility for corporate product planning and design and was appointed vice-president—product design in 1973.

Banks to strengthen business

HAMAD A.A. Al Hamad, the chairman of Commercial Bank of Kuwait accorded a warm welcome to Jorge Manuel Gonçalves, chairman of the board and Pedro Monteiro, general manager of Banco Comercial Portugues who were in Kuwait on a short business trip.

Al Hamad hosted a reception in their honour at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel on Saturday which was attended by prominent Kuwaiti businessmen from public and private sectors, as well as executives of the Commercial Bank.

During the reception, Jorge Gonçalves stated that the purpose of their visit was to enhance their understanding of Kuwait's banking and financial sector which has registered remarkable growth locally and internationally. He also confirmed that Banco Comercial Portugues and the Commercial Bank intend to strengthen their business relationship.

During discussions which followed the reception, it was agreed by the two banks to jointly organise a symposium on the investment opportunities available in Portugal.



Hamad A.A. Al Hamad (right), chairman of Commercial Bank of Kuwait greets Jorge Manuel Gonçalves, chairman of the board, Banco Comercial Portugues.

This will pave the way for Kuwaiti businessmen and senior government officials to meet with their counterparts in Portugal and will afford them the opportunity to assess the investment climate in that country.

Jordan seeks balance of payments surplus by '95

AMMAN, March 19, (Reuters): Jordan, briefing an IMF team on its financial problems, aims to bring its balance of payments into surplus by 1995, a senior official said today.

He said Amman would resist any International Monetary Fund move to the financial assistance to an immediate end to food subsidies expected to cost \$124 million this year.

"We will try to convince them that food subsidies are basic and have to remain for the moment," the official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

"We hope that by next year Jordan could start reducing the cost of subsidies and increasing public sector salaries."

Economists say the public sector, including the armed forces and police, employ at least half the kingdom's workforce.

Team

An IMF advance team arrived on Friday to gather more data on Jordan's balance of payments and foreign debt ahead of formal talks here on March 27 and 28, the official said.

Jordan hoped the IMF would approve a debt rescheduling package to spread payments over nine years with a three-year grace period. "This will ease the pressure," he said.

"If this happens and further cuts in government spending take place and we manage to keep exports rising at 15 per cent a year and restrict the growth in imports to three per cent a year, we will be able to reach a surplus in our balance of payments by 1995," he said.

The Central Bank has not published current account figures since 1987, when it showed a deficit of \$350 million. The 1987 trade deficit totalled \$1.76 billion and amounted to 1.3 billion in the first nine months of last year.

Central Bank officials have said the kingdom faces interest and principal repayments of \$1.2 billion this year on its foreign military and civil debt of about \$6 billion.

The debt repayment bulge coincides with what bankers say is a decline in remittances from Jordanians working abroad and a sharp fall in aid from Saudi Arabia and other Arab donors.

In October scarce foreign currency reserves forced the Central Bank to float the dinar, which lost one third of its dollar value before the bank resumed fixing rates last month.

Overnight funds were at four,

Test for scandal-plagued party Narrow victory for LDP candidate

TOKYO, March 19, (AP): Takeshi Numata, backed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, won a third term today as Governor of Chiba, Tokyo's eastern neighbour, in one of two elections viewed as a test for the scandal-plagued party.

In Miyagi prefecture in north-eastern Japan, Socialist Party candidate Shuntaro Honma easily won elections as governor today after the Liberal Democratic candidate, Kazuo Aichi, withdrew.

Aichi pulled out of the race after admitting he had received more than seven million yen (\$60,000) from Recruit Co., the company at the centre of the growing political scandal.

The elections came as Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's popularity plunged to an all-time low because of the scandal, involving allegations of

influence-peddling by Recruit, and criticisms of his party for its support of a new sales tax.

With 99.5 per cent of the ballots counted by late today in Chiba, Numata, 66, had received 969,221 votes, while his opponent, Shoji Ishii, supported by the Japan Communist Party, had received 783,280, election officials said.

The prefecture, traditionally a conservative stronghold, elected Numata in 1985 with 781,000 votes, while giving only 271,000 to his communist opponent.

The much smaller margin of victory for Numata could be a sign of trouble for the ruling party in parliamentary elections scheduled this summer. Voters will elect half of parliament's Upper House, where the ruling party holds 143 of the 251 seats.

Large losses in those elections would endanger Takeshita's chances of winning another two-

year term as party president and prime minister in October. Opposition parties already have called on Takeshita to resign because of the Recruit scandal.

In the Miyagi race, Honma, 49, received 333,310 votes with 64 per cent of the ballots counted, compared to 84,738 for Seiki Suzuki, a Conservative independent, and 68,734 for Yoshiaki Shoji, supported by the Communist Party, Kyodo News Service reported.

In the influence-peddling scandal, Recruit, an information conglomerate, reportedly offered hundreds of thousands of unlisted shares in a real-estate subsidiary at bargain prices to more than 150 influential people, including top politicians and businessmen. Many of those people made handsome profits by selling the stock after it began to be traded publicly, reports have said.

Inflation heats up in Europe again

Economists blame dollar's upward trend

LONDON, March 19, (AP): Inflation has been heating up in Europe for the first time in years, and the means to cool it will be higher interest rates. But few economists believe Europe will return to double-digit inflation, or that the higher interest rates will threaten the European economies' comeback of the late 1980s.

The pickup in prices, which coincides with a resurgence in US inflation, is being blamed on faster-than-expected economic growth, which caught European governments by surprise. Central banks across Europe slackened their grip too much after the October 1987 stock market crash, economists said.

Both consumer buying and investment spending have been strong in Europe. As a result, factories have been working at or near capacity.

Trend

Economists also blame the upward trend in the dollar and the weakness of European currencies—particularly the West German mark—last year, as well as higher commodity prices, especially for oil.

Higher prices are being exacerbated by higher wage claims, threatening to cause wage-price spirals in some countries.

KD deposits ease as Saudi riyal rates steady

KUWAIT, Mar 19, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates

officially maintained a week-old easing trend today amid high liquidity from last week's maturing treasury bill issue.

Dealers expected further softness later in the week from month-end government salary and bonus payments, but a new three-month bill issue dated on Wednesday could absorb some of the new liquidity.

Overnight funds were at four,

three per cent from three, two per cent on Saturday. But tomorrow and spot-negotiated slipped to 5-1/2, 4-1/2 per cent from six, five per cent. Tomorrow-negotiated at four per cent and spot-negotiated at 4-3/4 per cent.

One-week funds were unchanged at eight, seven per cent, while other fixed periods were either steady or slightly easier with the one-month at 8-3/4, 1/2 per cent, two and three months at nine, 8-3/4 per cent and six-month at 9-1/4, nine per cent.

Dealers said most operators were waiting to see how the offshore market in London would respond when it re-opens on Monday before taking out fresh positions.

One-month deposits were reported dealt at 8-5/8 per cent and six-month at 9-1/8 per cent.

Meanwhile Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits were steady in a typically quiet market after firming up to 1/8 point yesterday in response to sharp rises in Eurodollar rates.

Dealers said most operators were waiting to see how the offshore market in London would respond when it re-opens on Monday before taking out fresh positions.

There are inflationary pressures within most of the economies in Europe. I think the inflation fear is fairly widespread," said Nigel Rendell, an economist at the London investment firm James Capel and Co.

Highest

European inflation will peak at 5 per cent this year, its highest level since 1985, up from with 3.5 per cent last year, he predicted. It should fall back to 4 per cent next year, as US economic growth slows and the dollar weakens, he said.

Britain and Italy are expected to fare the worst, with an average annual rate of up to 7 per cent in 1989, economists say.

China to set up first futures market this year

Beijing faces economic hurdles

TOKYO, March 19, (Reuters): China's first futures market, due to open this year, will resemble those that operated in the United States in the mid-19th century, says William Grossman, head of the Chicago Board of Trade's Tokyo office.

Because of China's communications problems, he said, messengers will probably have to deliver bids and offers from market players and at the exchange, quotes will be chalked on a blackboard with price changes likely relayed by word-of-mouth or in newspapers.

Grossman is advising Chinese futures market planners and recently returned from a tour of the planned site of China's first exchange.

"China is just starting out and it only makes sense that their market would look like ours when we got started," Grossman said in an interview.

Hope

Chinese officials hope to open a wheat futures market in Zhengzhou in Henan province as the first of several futures exchanges that will dot the country.

But Grossman said the project probably would not get off the ground until sometime next year and when it did open it would be too primitive to judge by US or European stan-

dards.

For example, the Chinese wheat exchange would "be a roaring success" if it traded 100 contracts a week, Grossman said.

His own CBOT trades nearly 70,000 wheat contracts a week. Moreover, the Chinese wheat exchange could be open as little as one hour a day, five days a week.

Futures contracts are agreements to buy or sell a commodity at a particular price at some date in the future. Futures can enable producers and users to hedge against wild price swings.

China's underdeveloped infrastructure is one of the biggest hurdles to future market growth, Grossman said. China lacks telephone lines, critical for orders in modern exchanges.

Market

Grossman said China still faced major economic hurdles before a market could open. The planned 16-storey headquarters of the wheat exchange is at present only two piles of construction materials—the project stalled by a government credit crackdown to battle inflation.

In addition, physical delivery of the underlying wheat could be easily delayed by roads around the proposed market that sometimes wash out during rain storms.

The actual date of the exchange's opening hinges on unresolved political questions that relate to operating a futures exchange in a socialist country, Grossman said.

Issues as fundamental as the market-making mechanism are grounded in ideological debates. Officials are trying to decide whether to allow Chicago-style local traders who trade only for their own account or whether to recommend some form of government-sponsored device.

"People in the countryside see the benefits of productive speculation, but some of those in Beijing don't share their views," Grossman said.

However, Grossman said that, contrary to his expectations, most Chinese officials strongly supported a continuous trading system rather than a market with periodic price fixings.

Global demand for crude continues to rise

World oil prices approaching stability

JAKARTA, March 19. (Agencies): Indonesia's Mines and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said world oil prices were approaching stability but warned of a likely downturn next month.

"I think the price is close to the situation that might create stability," Ginandjar told Reuters in an interview. But oil producers, including those outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, should be careful because prices will dip in April, he added.

Demand
Ginandjar said the price of the OPEC basket of crude oils could be around \$16 a barrel next month, when world demand normally eases as the weather gets warmer in the Northern Hemisphere.

"I think around \$16 is good because at present it's at \$16.50 a barrel," Ginandjar said.

Commenting on a meeting of OPEC's ministerial monitoring committee scheduled for March 29, he said: "I'm sure we will discuss how to strengthen our unity within OPEC...this time we will see that OPEC's committee will meet in a positive atmosphere."

"In the past we were always clouded by problems within our organisation, but now it is positive."

Asked about OPEC's oil production average in March, Ginandjar said: "It's below 19 million (barrels) a day but may be above the ceiling of 18.5 million." The organisation put the ceiling on production in the first half of this year in the hope of reaching a target price of \$18 a barrel.

Ginandjar reiterated his view the ceiling should continue in the second half of this year along with cuts from non-OPEC oil producers.

"All oil producers should pay attention to the second half," he said. "We should not be over optimistic about the second half of this year. We must be cautious for that period."

He warned against expecting too much from a planned meeting, proposed for the end of this month, of OPEC and non-OPEC ministers. OPEC has been trying to get other oil producers to also limit their exports.

"Such a meeting should have a clear agenda and should not create unrealistic expectations in the market," he said.

Oil prices broke through the \$20-a-barrel barrier for the first time in 16 months on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday amid the growing belief that

OPEC's production quotas are for real.

West Texas Intermediate — the benchmark US crude for immediate delivery on the Merc — surged by 49 cents to \$20.33 a barrel. The last time WTI closed above \$20 a barrel was Oct 28, 1987, when it finished at \$20.08 a barrel.

It was the fifth straight day of increases on the Merc in a week that saw the price of West Texas Intermediate zoom by \$1.83 a barrel.

Contracts
Trading was heavy on Friday, as it has been most of the week, with 107,079 contracts sold.

On the US Gulf coast spot market, where oil is sold to the highest bidder, West Texas Intermediate soared \$1.05 to \$20.20 a barrel. For the week the crude gained \$1.75 a barrel.

Analysts said there were increasing signs the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is moving close to its 18.5 million barrel-a-day production ceiling imposed on Jan 1.

"It looks like OPEC is holding around 19 (million barrels a day)," said Pete Simonelli of New York's Balfour MacLaine Futures Inc.

Iraq sticks to OPEC quota despite increased capacity

ABUDHABI, March 19. (Agencies): Iraq is strictly abiding by its OPEC production quota despite increased oil output capacity. Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi was quoted today as saying:

"We affirm our full commitment to the OPEC accord although Iraq's oil production and export capacity is steadily increasing," the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad quoted him as saying.

Exports
Chalabi did not elaborate on the increased output capacity. OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) gave Iraq a quota of 2.640 million barrels per day (BPD) for the first six months of 1989.

On exports, Chalabi said:

Malaysia cuts exports

"Iraq will soon find new export outlets for its crude and petroleum products through its ports at the Arabian Gulf."

Iran prevented Iraq using its Gulf ports during their eight-year war. Baghdad exports oil through pipelines across Turkey and Saudi Arabia and will be able to send an extra 1.1 million BPD through an expansion of its line in Saudi Arabia when it is completed next September.

Shipping sources said it would also soon start to use Zubair Port, southwest of Basra, to export refined oil products from Basra refinery through the Gulf.

OPEC production is estimated to have been running about one

million barrels daily over its first-half 1989 output ceiling of 18.5 million barrels daily, industry sources said.

Meanwhile, Malaysia says its decision to slash its oil exports by five per cent is in support of OPEC's continuing efforts to restore oil prices and stabilise the market.

Malaysian Cabinet Minister Kasitah Gaddam said in Kuala Lumpur Thursday that although the move would affect the country's oil production and revenues, it was necessary in order to stabilise oil prices.

He said Malaysia had always been supportive of OPEC and had never hesitated to take practical steps to show its solidarity.

Strike enters third week

Eastern, Pan Am union leaders discuss merger

MIAMI, March 19. (Reuters): Union leaders of strikebound Eastern Airlines and its struggling rival, Pan American World Airways, said yesterday they have made progress in working out a strategy to buy and combine the two carriers.

Meanwhile, a Teamsters Union official threatened to spread Eastern's crippling strike to Pan Am's operations.

"We feel a great camaraderie and solidarity with the people of Pan Am and it (a merger) is just kind of a natural," said Charles Bryan, head of Eastern's machinists' union, which went on strike on March 4 in a dispute over wage concessions.

Rescue
Union officials insisted that an employee purchase could rescue the two airlines and they reported progress at yesterday's meeting toward developing a workable proposal.

They said a merger of Eastern's domestic system and Pan Am's international routes would create a strong airline.

Eastern's 8,500 machinists have entered their third week on a strike that has crippled the nation's seventh-largest airline and forced it to seek bankruptcy protection. The workers have refused to give wage concessions.

Like Eastern, Pan Am has suffered massive losses in recent years. After the meeting, a top Teamsters official said Pan Am's Teamsters members might stage a sympathy strike against Pan Am's northeast shuttle, which competes with Eastern's service in the New York-Boston-Washington triangle.

William Genoece, airline division director for the Teamsters Union, which represents Pan Am's ground workers, also said such action would be taken to demonstrate solidarity with Eastern's strikers.



The Rev. Jesse Jackson addresses a crowd of striking Eastern Airlines workers and supporters on Saturday in Lafayette Park across from the White House. Jackson voiced his support for the workers. (Reuters wirephoto)

buyout of the airline since 1986, when Texas Air chairman Frank Lorenzo agreed to acquire Eastern.

Although Texas Air has consistently rejected the idea, Bryan has stepped up his efforts since his union began its strike against Eastern.

Buyout
Federal judges have barred unionised railway workers from mounting sympathy strikes in support of Eastern's unions and Eastern's strikers have made no major effort so far to expand their job action to other airlines.

Bryan, president of District 100 of the International Association of Machinists, has been pushing for an employee-led

Iranian bank to borrow up to \$1b for power generation

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 19. (AP): The Iranian parliament yesterday approved the state-owned Central Bank to borrow up to \$1 billion to be spent on power generation, on condition that repayment of the loan does not exceed \$150 million annually, Tehran Radio reported.

The report did not specify how the bank could borrow the money from.

With only a few days left before the end of the current Iranian year on March 21, the parliament has been allocating funds for the coming year from its \$123.7 billion budget, approved earlier this month.

Power generation has been one of the government's top-priority items following the August ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Damage
There are daily blackouts in all the larger Iranian cities as a result of the heavy damage inflicted on power stations by Iraqi attacks during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, reported that parliament also allocated \$80 million to be spent on universities and research centres.

The state-run disabled foundation, a charity organisation for the numerous veterans wounded during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war, was also given permission to spend up to \$40 million on unfinished projects, the radio said, but did not specify what these projects were.

For remote rural areas without access to drinking water, \$20 million will be spent during the coming year to provide the necessary facilities, the radio said.

Rate
The parliament also stipulated receiving foreign exchange from the government at the official exchange rate, must carry out all transactions through the Central Bank, or a bank approved by the state-owned bank, the radio said.

Private importers often want to bring in nonessential goods that accrue higher profits.

KUWAIT									
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			
NATIONAL BANK	0.890	0.900	0.910	0.900	1179600	35			
GULF BANK	0.365	0.370	0.370	0.370	10000	1			
COMMERCIAL BK	0.260								
ABLI BANK	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	80000	3			
B.K.M.E	0.320								
K.R.E.B.	0.250								
BURJAN BANK	0.255	0.260	0.260	0.260	530000	14			
K.F.HOUSE	0.430	0.440	0.445	0.435	520000	29			
INVESTMENT SECTOR									
KUT INV. CO.	0.140								
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210								
K.I.I.C.	0.104								
COM.FACILITIES	0.475								
AMLIAN INV.	0.000								
I.F.A.	0.056								
INV. PEARL KUT	0.078								
NATIONAL INV.	0.067								
KUT PROJECTS	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	600000	10			
INSURANCE SECTOR									
KUT INSURANCE	0.700								
GULF INSURANCE	0.360								
AMLIAN INS. CO.	0.510								
VARBA INS. CO.	0.340								
REAL ESTATE SECTOR									
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.138								
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.054								
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.192								
SALHIAN R.E.	0.080								
KUT R.E.I. CON	0.000								
INDUSTRY SECTOR									
NAT IND. CO.	0.520								
KUT M.P. IND.	0.280								
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.170								
REF. IND. CO.	0.355								
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR									
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.55	4.60	0.75	0.71					
GENERAL INVESTMENT	2.39	2.63	1.35	1.27					
GENERAL MINING	2.20	2.10	2.20	2.10					
MINER MINERALS	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75					
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	EJ	1.44	EJ					
IND. MACH JENCO	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69					
INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT BK	1.64	1.60	1.64	1.60					
INDUSTRIAL/COMM/AGR.	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60					
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75					
INTERCOM/INV	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13					
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90					
ISLANIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64					
ITERME/PETRI/CH	1.61	1.64	1.61	1.64					
J.TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80	0.79	0.80					
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	1.26	1.29					
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50	20.00	19.50					
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05					
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.50	1.51	1.50	1.51					
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	1.20	1.22					
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01					
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30					
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.25	2.29	2.25	2.29					
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20					
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY									
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83	0.79	0.83					
JOR LIN BRICK	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21					
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50					
JOR NATIOMAL BANK	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55					
JOR PAPER CARDBRGG	3.75	3.60	3.75	3.60					
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.44	3.44	3.44	3.44					
JOR PRES MANUFACT	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75					
JOR PIPES/PUBLIS.	1.79	1.72	1.79	1.72					
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40	4.25	4.40					
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98					
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11	1.12	1.11					
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.72	2.70	2.72	2.70					
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.78	1.80	1.78	1.80					
JOR WORSTED MLL	5.60	5.40	5.60	5.40					
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95					
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.88	7.85	7.88	7.85					
JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45					
JOR INV.FIN.CORP	2.39	2.39	2.39	2.39					
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37					
JORDAN DAIRY	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96					
JORDAN GULF INS.	1.31	1.30	1.31	1.30					
JORDAN INSURANCE	3.59	3.57	3.59	3.57					
JORDAN ISLAMIC BHK	2.04	2.05	2.04	2.05					
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.45	1.47	1.45	1.47					
JORDAN TANNING	2.01	2.05	2.01	2.05					
FINANCIAL SECTOR									
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			
GULF INTL INS	0.000								
ARAB INT CO.	0.000								
SHARJAH INS	0.000								
GULF UNION INS	0.000								
R.K.WHITE CNT	0.000								
AIJMAN CEMENT	0.000								
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR									
B-FUJAIH CEMENT	0.000								
C-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010								
D-GULF CEMENT	0.010								

AMMAN			FINANCE/CREDIT/CORP.		0.75	0.71	JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74	0.70
			GARAGE OWNERS OFF		4.55	4.60	JOR LIN BRICK	0.21	0.21	MAK/EQUI/RENT/MAIN <th>0.79</th> <th>0.79</th>	0.79	0.79
			JORDAN INSURANCE		2.39	2.43	JOR MFG CONSULTY	0.50	0.50	MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.70
			GENERAL INVESTMENT		1.35	1.27	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.55	2.55	NID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.17
			GENERAL MINING		2.20	2.10	JOR PAPER CARDBOG	3.75	3.60	MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.80	0.84
			HIMMEH MINERALS		0.75	0.75	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.44	3.44	MIDDEL EAST INS	1.99	1.94
			HOLY LAND INS.		1.44	EJ	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.75	1.75	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.74
			INDO./MATCH/GENCO		0.68	0.69	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72	NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	1.98	2.00
			INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT BHK		1.66	1.60	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40	NAT/CABLE/WIRE/INS	1.44	1.35
			INDSTRCL/COMM/AGRI		1.66	1.60	JOR SECURIT CORP.	0.98	0.98	NATIONAL ARIA INS	1.46	1.35
			INDUSTRIAL INVEST.		0.75	0.75	JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.12	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.97	0.97
			INTERN.COM/INV		0.13	0.13	JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.10	2.10	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.93	0.92
			IRBID ELECTRICITY		0.90	0.90	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.78	1.80	NATIONAL STEEL	2.77	2.72
			ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE		0.64	0.64	JOR WORSTED MIL	5.60	5.60	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
			ITERMED/PETRI/CH		1.61	1.64	JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.95	0.95	PETRA BANK	2.60	2.52
			JTOR-SP COMPLEX		0.79	0.80	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.88	7.85	PETRA JOR.INS.	0.35	0.35
			JERUSALEM INS.		1.26	1.29	JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45	PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.10	1.11
			JO TABACCO/CIGARET		20.00	19.50	JOR. INV.FIN. CORP	2.39	2.39	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.82	1.91
			JOR AERIAL FACTOR		1.95	1.95	JORDAN. GULF REAL	0.37	0.37	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.65	0.65
			JOR EAGLE INS.		25.05	25.05	JORDAN DAIRY	1.96	0.96	SHIPPING LINES	1.05	1.05
			JOR ELECTRIC POWER		1.15	1.21	JORDAN GULF INS.	1.30	1.30	SPINNING MEVING	1.09	1.05
			JOR FINANCE HOUSE		2.20	2.20	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.95	0.95	THE HOUSING BANK	1.85	1.85
			JOR GLASS INDUSTRY		1.01	1.01	JORDAN INSURANCE	3.59	3.57	UNITED INSURANCE	1.18	1.18
			JOR HOTEL TOURISM		2.30	2.30	JORDAN ISLAMIC BAK	2.04	2.05	UNIVERSAL CHEM.IND	3.21	3.25
			JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.		2.25	2.29	JORDAN KUWAIT BAK	1.45	1.47	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.65
			JOR INS. AND FIN.		1.20	1.20	JORDAN TANNING	2.03	2.06	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1.00	1.00
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY			OPNG	CLSE								
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.			1.84	1.87								
ARAB BANK			141.0	139.5								
ARAB CHEMICAL-STER.			4.69	4.65								
ARAB FINANCE CORP.			2.44	2.41								
ARAB INSURANCE			1.04	1.03								
ARAB INT. INV./TRAD.			0.57	0.57								
ARAB INT. UNION INS.			1.25	1.23								
ARAB INTER. HOTELS			0.85	0.87								
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK			2.35	2.35								
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD			0.43	0.45								
ARAB PHARM. MANIF.			0.95	0.95								
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN			0.98	0.96								
ARAB POTASH CO.			---	---								
ARABIAN SEAS INS.			1.65	1.65								
BANK OF JORDAN			15.25	15.30								
BATT AL-HAL/BEITHMA			0.95	1.00								
BELGIUM INSURANCE			1.00	0.95								
CETCO ARABIAN BAK			31.00	31.00								
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE			1.02	1.25								
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS			0.51	0.51								
DAR ALADWA DV/INV.			2.34	2.35								
DARCO/INVEST/PRINS.			0.79	0.79								

EVENTS

Circle of violence

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A GROWING tendency is to take for granted death and destruction, and violence. These are things that happen to others, outside of our circle and don't concern us. Really? Maybe not. Hathyar delves on this theme, trying to justify, not necessarily in the best way, some aspects of why a man turns to crime and how people choose to ignore the terrible tragedy of our times. Although it's not essential for someone to rebel against society to find a niche, often the young are thrown off balance by incidents beyond their control like in the case of Avinash (Sunjay Dutt), a chronic worrier, who broods and sulks, becoming a tool for his own destruction.

Hathyar is not so much about conventional battles (not even like the type portrayed in Hindi films). It focusses on the hidden, unseen elements that attack someone when least expected, like hunger, despair, poverty, rivalry and an urge to pull through despite all odds.

Moments of truth abound in the tragedy of such situations like the sequence showing an unclaimed dead body lying beside the railway line, or the circumstances that lead to the honest Thakur's (Kulbhushan Kharbanda) arrest for a theft he did not commit. And all the while, Avinash is a silent spectator, torn between right and wrong. But then, such things are relative issues.

Thakur and Sami (Rishi Kapoor) advocate peace. Avinash and Khan (Dharmendra) propagates violence. "I must snatch what I want," he tells Khan, the underworld boss. Who is correct? Who can tell? Such conflicting emotions smolder as Avinash's character grows in each frame, ultimately

leading to a tragic end. "Everything is upside down, and can be turned inside out," says Rajan Anas (Sadashiv Amrapurkar), a seedy character who is one link in the chain of violence.

As the circle of violence continues, writer-director J.P. Dutta has trouble wrapping up his story and opts to prolong it by employing avoidable clichés like further mayhem, shootouts and cold-blooded murders. Nevertheless, Hathyar is a watchable movie, far better than several films released on video in recent weeks.

Sunjay Dutt as the drifter caught in a vicious web lives up to his role. Perhaps, this is one of his best performances. Dharmendra, in a brief role, and Rishi Kapoor, do justice to their roles. Sangeeta Birlani, a model-turned-actress who makes a debut, in a brief cameo as Sami's wife, is no more than an extra. Amrita Singh is the romantic foil for Avinash.

Yateem

Yateem (The Orphan) is a prime example of juggling old ideas to make a new movie. If you believed film-makers had exhausted the dacoit-drama themes, you'll be in for a surprise. Yateem, a disguised dacoit movie, harping on what happens to the children of outlaws who die in a police shootout.

Yateem is the story of one such child named Krishna who is adopted by a kind-hearted policeman and grows up to be an honest, law abiding citizen. Although the story seems plausible, and is in parts, some-

how, they miss the point. Supposedly, it is about the remorse and despair of a child who is rejected by society by virtue of being the son of an outlaw. Yet, only in the penultimate sequences the director focusses his attention on this subject. Also, there is a degree of uncertainty about the fate of Krishna.

"A blacksmith's son is a blacksmith and so is a dacoit's son," says Yadav (Sujata Mehta), implying that someone who wants to reform shouldn't be allowed to. Is Krishna a policeman or a dacoit? Maybe, maybe not.

While the script debates this, viewers sit through Krishna's heroic rescue of a bride from the wedding altar; his marriage in a temple to Farha, and her motherhood, before the director realises it is time to tie the loose ends together.

Some viewers may object to the focus on some home truths: like the young wife of an aging man having an affair with a man her own age. Others may not. It depends on how you look at such moral issues.

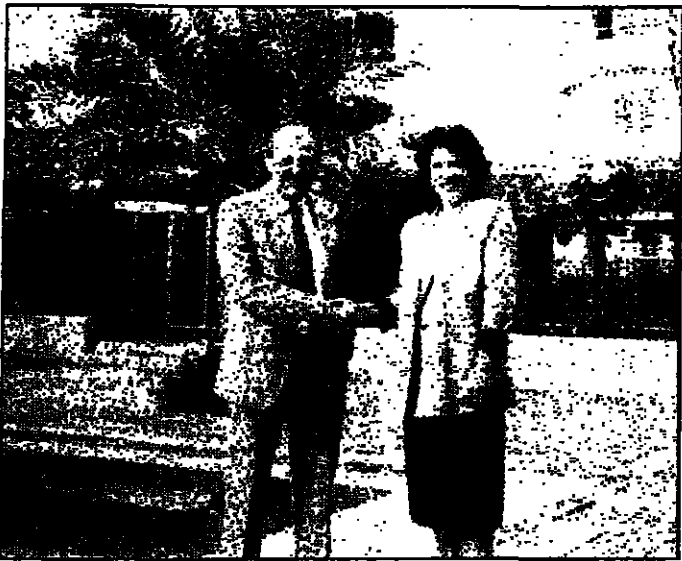
It seems to be a formidable task to draw the line between reality and fiction; therefore, it is hard to say when reality ends and fiction begins. Perhaps, this is Yateem's trouble.

Sunay Dutt plays the title role with much gusto; Farha is the girl torn between her father and lover and Sujata Mehta, in the role of Yadav's second wife, does full justice to the character she portrays. Danny plays the loathful police officer.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, tel: 4712900; and Falcon Video, Abbasiya, Tel: 4316398.



Sangeeta Birlani and Sunjay Dutt star in Hathyar.



● SAS Hotel's Director of Sales Steinar Bergvoll congratulates Kathy-Lynn McGregor after she was promoted to assistant director of sales. Kathy-Lynn has been with the SAS for seven-and-a-half years.



● Meridien Hotel's Food and Beverage Manager J. Ripoché pictured with hotel staff who took part in the two-day Greek Festival last week. The festival was organised by the hotel in co-operation with the Greek embassy and Olympus Airways.



Hind Kamel in Kuwait
Iraqi actress Hind Kamel has arrived in Kuwait for a film festival that opens tonight. She was introduced to newsmen at a press conference held at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Some of the latest Iraqi films will be shown during the festival, organised by Kuwait Cine Club and the Iraqi embassy. (L-R) Iraqi diplomat Hamed Al Mulla, Farouk Abdul Aziz and Hind Kamel. (See what's on for details)



TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1		
9.00 Holy Quran	5.15 Mama Anisa and Children: presented by Samiya Mohammad.	8.00 News in English
9.15 Cartoon Serial	6.00 Ibn Attiya: historical serial starring Majed Afroun, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina.	8.40 A Different World: Denise and her friends prepare for exams. Comedy. Starring: Lisa Bonet, Dawn Lewis, Marisa Tomei.
10.00 Al Jazir Min Hanan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashi, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Taji	6.30 Songs and Music	9.30 Equinox: "Planning with Fire"
11.00 Baqaya Wajoooh: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Halfa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar.	7.00 News Summary	10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Driving Under the Influence. Thriller. A drunken driver hits and escapes and is later pursued by the victim."
12.00 Kuwait Al Ams: Kuwait Yesterday. Part 2. Interview with Umm Abdullah. Presented by Jassim Ghareeb.	7.15 Songs and Music	10.30 French Feature Film: "Les Quarantaines Rugissantes." Part 2. Starring: Julie Christie, Francois Perreel.
1.00 News Summary	7.30 Cultural film	11.30 News Summary/Magazine: D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown
1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown	8.30 Good Evening	
	9.00 News in Arabic	
	9.50 Loolu wa Aadaaf: Arabic serial	
	10.45 Art and Philosophy: presented by Amal Abdullah.	
	12.15 News Summary	
	12.20 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown	
KTV 2		
6.00 Holy Quran	6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial	
6.15 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Jahra		

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Awqaf Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Hilali St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Kuwait Pharmacy
Qasaba St.
Sahalya and Rumsaitiya
Al Phoenix Pharmacy
Khaleel Al Esra Saleh Bldg.
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Almadhi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous Palace, Dabbous St.
Farwaniya
Al Munawar Pharmacy
South Souk St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Asdaks Al Duniya Al Jinah Yamama (Arabic) Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Mervat Ameen Al Salmiya Jamal Muhammad Ya Shaab (Arabic play) Al Hamra Revolution Starring: Al Pacino, Nastassja Kinski Almadi Drive-In Kul Hada Al Hub (Arabic) Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Laila Alwi Al Firdous Rampur Ka Lakshman (Hindi) Starring: Randhir Kapoor, Rekha Fahad Open-Air Shoorveer (Hindi)	Al Fahad Oasis of Lost Women Al Jahra Mag Wheels Granada Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars Salaibkhat Red Heat Al Jleeb Kaavin (Bengali) Ahmadi Drive-In To Burn the Sun
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PRAYERS

Fajr	4.32 am
Zuhr	11.55
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.00
Isha	7.17



Bulgarian graphic art
Bulgarian graphic art went on show at the Boushahri Gallery on Sunday night. The exhibition, showing contemporary graphic art, was opened by the Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Angel Mantichev. Diplomats and art enthusiasts attended the opening. The exhibition has been organised by Boushahri Gallery in co-operation with the Bulgarian embassy. Above: Mantichev (second right) admires some of the paintings on show.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thumayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Boushahri Gallery
GRAPHIC art by Bulgarian artists will go on show at 6 pm tonight at the gallery in Sal-miya. It was opened by Bulgarian Ambassador Angel Mantichev. It is open to the public daily from 10 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm, until March 28.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St.
Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes, and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts.

CINEMA

Iraqi Film Festival
AN Iraqi film festival will be held in Kuwait from March 20 to 29. The following films will be shown:
March 20: Al Hodood Al Multabab (1984); directed by Saeb Haddad, starring Sami Qattan, Hind Kamel, Qassem

Mallak.
March 21: Al La'abah (1987), director: Mohammad Shukri Jamil, starring Abdul Rida, Qassem Mallak, Sana Abdul Rahman.
March 22: Sitta ala Sitta (1988); director: Yasseem Mallak, Laila Ahmad.
March 25: Urs Iraqi (1988); director: Mohd. Shukri Jamil, starring Qassem Mallak, Fatima Kabae.
March 26: Hub fi Baghdad (1986); director: Abdul Hadi Al Rawi; starring Qassem Mallak, Sana.
March 27: Al Faris Wal Jabal; starring: Khalil Shawki, Susan Al Ali.
March 28: Shay Min Al Quwwah, starring Miqdad Abdul Rida, Khalil Shawki.
March 29: Al Bait, starring Athar Khidr, Awatif Ibrahim.
All films will be shown at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Children not permitted inside the auditorium.

Japanese Movie
MARCH 23 (4-6 pm): A Japanese cartoon feature entitled "Future War" will be shown in Al Thuraya Room, 16th floor, Meridien Hotel. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

MUSIC

Jukebox 5
UNTIL March 22 (7 pm): Auditions for singers and dancers for the Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5 at Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston with June Woolston and Phil Thomas as musical directors. Nacsh Hameed will choreograph the show. Dancers and singers must come prepared and bring dance gear and music with them. For details ring 5740256 or 5625316.

Children's Dance Recital
MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a

children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2, are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Mary Poppins
MARCH 22 (5.30 pm) and March 23 (10 am): Mary Poppins, starring Julie Andrews as the nanny with a passion for magical adventures, will be shown at the British Council. The animation, live action and award-winning songs brought this film five Academy Awards. Admission free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Children and adults welcome. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Beat Concert
MARCH 31: Vishal Arts present a beat concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the group will present a variety show with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

THEATRE

Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karuha Purnami" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandra Mohan and directed by Nandan Iringalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chaillot", directed by George Pleutz, at Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya. Reduced ticket price for opening night. For reservations call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

EXHIBITION

Silk Painting Exhibition
MARCH 21-23 (5-9 pm): Ladies from the German-speaking cultural association

will hold a silk painting exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka room. Exhibits include Arab scenes, art nouveau and other subjects as well as cushions, scarves, brooches and a small Easter bazaar. All are welcome.

SOCIAL

Community Festival
MARCH 31: 4.30 pm. Thapasya, an Indian group, will hold a community festival featuring folk dances at Mascala Family Beach. Entrance: 500 fils (adults); 250 fils (children).

Southerners get-together
MARCH 31: The Southerners will hold a get-together at Carlton Towers Hotel from 10 am to 4 pm. Next of Kin will provide musical entertainment. For details ring 2425705 or 4831484.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic Eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supperclub on Thursday nights. Friday brunch - fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At Maharaja Palace Restaurant
A MEAT festival, promoting Indian cuisine, is being held until the end of March. Live music by Indian musicians. Open for lunch and dinner from 12.30 to 3 pm and 7 to 11 pm, located near the Kuwait Towers.

At the Kuwait Plaza
AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and din-

ner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.
Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.
Lolouwah Corner: open from 4 to 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shalal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.
Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arzy Band.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.
The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

SPORTS

BA Speedbird Trophy
MARCH 24: The BA Speedbird Trophy cricket match between teams representing Britain and Pakistan will be held at the KOC New Ground, Ahmadi. Play will commence at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

Volleyball Tournament
MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem - 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm).

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World Figure Skating Championship

Ito captures first ever title for Japan

PARIS, March 19, (AP) — Midori Ito put on a stunning display of jumping to capture the first title ever for Japan at the World Figure Skating Championships Saturday.

Ito earned five 6.0's for technical merit for a programme that included seven triple jumps. About 50 seconds into her routine, she did a triple axel, the first time it has been completed by a woman in the world championships.

Ito's programme won the plaudits of the crowd and judges. In addition to the 6.0's, she received four 5.9's for the technical merit marks. Her artistic impression scores were all 5.8's except for one 5.9.

Mistakes

The 19-year-old from Nagoya, Japan, shut the door on her opposition in a winner-take-all showdown in the final free skating, which counted 50 per cent of the total score. She was third entering the final routine.

Claudia Leistner of West Germany edged Jill Trenary of the United States for second. Both made a number of mistakes in their routines as they battled for the silver.

Leistner fell early while Trenary completed just two triple jumps and sailed down two double axels into singles in her programme.

As her name was announced as gold medalist, Ito's face lit up as



Midori Ito of Japan skates to victory. (Reuter wirephoto)

her turquoise and blue sequined costume sparked as much as she did.

Trenary's American team-

mate, Kristi Yamaguchi, skating in her first world championships, put on a strong performance to climb one place to sixth.

Ito put on a jumping exhibition that was stronger than she did last year at the Calgary Olympics, where she was fifth. She was sixth at last year's world championships.

This year, with the top three of last season retired it came down to a free skating battle between Ito, Leistner and Trenary.

It was no contest.

"I had no pressure on me," Ito said. "I wanted to do my best."

At times Ito leaped so high she completed the rotations of her jumps with room to spare.

Trouble

The only jump that gave her trouble was the triple axel — three and one-half turns in the air. She landed it roughly but managed to stay on one foot and her mouth opened wide when she realized what she had done.

After that it was clear sailing, even doing a difficult double axel as her final jump after a split combination.

Skating last, Trenary had a minute chance to catch Ito if she had a perfect programme both technically and artistically. But that was gone early with an early exit from her first triple attempt and played it cautiously after that.

"I let my nerves get to me more than I ever did before," Trenary said. "I was disappointed with how I skated."

Patricia Nease of West Germany, who was born and raised

in the United States, came in fourth with Natalia Lebedeva of the Soviet Union fifth.

Yamaguchi in sixth and Evelyn Grossmann of East Germany, both 17, stamped themselves as future stars with superb routines, each doing five triple jumps.

Flawless

Grossmann, who succeeded Katarina Witt as the East German champion, had a flawless programme and should have been ranked higher than fifth in the free skating.

In the ice dance event, which ended Friday, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko of the Soviet Union won the title but Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay's won the crowd with an adventurous routine to music by Paul McCartney.

Shortly after the Duchesnays' performance Friday, Klimova and Ponomarenko skated their more conventional routine to polite applause and a few cheers.

But they gained the best marks of the competition, including six 6.0's, and won their first world ice dance title, ascending to the throne after being the prince and princess for the past four years behind compatriots Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin.

Romantic

Yet it was the Duchesnays' long-awaited routine, unveiled in Paris, that brought down the house. Skating to music by Paul McCartney, the French-Can-



Midori Ito of Japan (centre) with silver medalist Claudia Leistner of West Germany (left) and bronze medalist Jill Trenary of the USA (right) on the podium after the awards ceremony. (Reuter wirephoto)

adian brother and sister presented a softer, more romantic programme than last year's adventurous "jungle" routine. Both programmes were choreographed by former British ice dance star Christopher Dean.

"It was Chris' choreography, our coach's work and our

sweat," Isabelle said.

Although they were good enough to get the bronze, the crowd let the Duchesnays know who they felt was No. 1 by letting loose with boos and whistles on seeing the scores — mostly 5.7's with a scattering of 5.8's and one 5.9.

Klimova and Ponomarenko had 12.5.9's and six 6.0's for their routine to music of the "Threepenny Opera."

"We think it's nice because the people seemed to like it and that was worth more than any medal — gold, silver or bronze," Paul said.

Italian posts quickest time in track testing

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 19, (AP) — Italian racer Alessandro Nannini today posted the quickest time in Formula-1 track testing, as his Benetton-Ford chassis led the field for the third time in six days at Rio's Nelson Piquet raceway.

Nannini ran quicker qualifying tyres in the intense 100-degree F (38 C) heat, to record a fastest lap of 1 minute 28.32 seconds on the 3.1-mile (5.03 kilometre) track during the sixth day of test sessions prior to the Brazilian Grand Prix, the season's first race on March 26.

Italy's Ivan Capelli and Mauricio Gugelmin of Brazil also used qualifying tyres in the Southern Hemisphere summer heat to set the second and third quickest times of 1 minute 28.50 seconds and 1 minute 28.90 seconds.

The day's biggest scare came at the close of the practice session when Belgium driver Thierry Boutsen crashed his Williams (Renault) chassis at 160 miles per hour (257 kilometres per hour) on a curve.

Boutsen, who set the seventh quickest time on race rubber of 1 minute 29.74 seconds earlier in the day, lost control when the suspension failed and the back end of the car dropped with the racer in high gear.

"The car spun and crashed into the barrier hard, but fortunately sideways," said the Belgian racer, who suffered nothing worse than a bruised knee.

The force of the impact ripped two wheels off the car and left the body a twisted wreck.

The McLaren-Honda team, which completed nearly twice the laps of any other team, continued to better its times as France's Alain Prost posted a best time on race tyres of 1 minute 29.58 seconds. Prost's mark was only three-tenths of a second slower than the best race-tyre time of the week.

"The problem has been trying to set up the balance of the car on its track," said Prost after the test. "The tyres wear so rapidly here and it's difficult to tell if you are making improvements to the car because the tyre performance is constantly changing at the same time."

Britain's Johnny Herbert continued to show good form with a second Benetton, setting the fifth fastest time of the day on an all-worn set of qualifying tyres, locking 1 minute 29.69 seconds.

Martin Brundle of England set is best time of the week, clocking 1 minute 29.50 seconds using qualifying tyres. But his Brabham teammate Stefano Modena of Italy failed to better his own test time set Thursday when he spun off on oil dropped by another car.

The AGS-team's troubles continued today as Brazilian driver Roberto Moreno announced he had sought a court order against the team for \$28,000 in back pay for him for driving in the Japanese and Australian Grand Prix last year. The team risks having a second car impounded before the race.

Nissan ends Porsche's 13-year winning streak

SEBRING, Fla. March 19, (UPI) — It took the Nissan GTP just one trip to Sebring International Raceway to achieve perfection.

Geoff Brabham, Chip Robinson and Arie Luyendyk steered Don Devendorf's electrified Nissan GTP to a two-lap victory in the 12 Hours of Sebring yesterday, snapping a 13-year Porsche winning streak in the race and continuing the team's domination of the International Motor Sports Association's Camel GTP series. The victory was the 11th in the last 14 Camel GTP races for the Nissan, which set a track record by averaging 112.742 mph for the 12-hour race.

When Brabham, the 1988 series champion, took the checkered flag at 10 pm EST, he did more than just win the oldest race on the IMSA circuit. He said that the Nissan was too unreliable to win an endurance race, especially on the unforgiving and bumpy 4.11 mile, 13-turn course in central Florida.

Nissan became the second car in the last 14 years to win Sebring from the No. 1 starting position.

"It's just unbelievable," said Brabham, the 1988 Camel GTP champion. "The car was just fantastic. The crew just did a great job setting up the car. To come here and win the first time is a real credit to them."

This is only the second endurance race the Nissan has entered, with the first being the season-opening 24 Hours of Daytona in February. The Nissan won the role there and was leading with five hours left when it left the race with mechanical problems.

Struggling

Brabham and Robinson also won two weeks ago at Miami.

While their competitors, especially the Porsche 962s that had won the last four Sebring races, were struggling, Brabham, Robinson, and Luyendyk were engineering a near-perfect race.

"The car was just flawless the whole time," said Robinson, the 1987 IMSA champion.

Price Cobb and John Nielsen finished second in a Castrol Jaguar, followed by James Weaver and Dominic Dobson in the Texaco Havoline Porsche 962, 10 laps behind. Dan Marvin

and Bob Lesnett won the Camel Lights division in a Pontiac Firebird, Larry Dallenbach and Dorsey Schroeder won the GTO division in a Mercury Cougar XR-7, and Bart Kendall, George Robinson and Johnny Unser finished first in the GTU division in a Pontiac Fiero.

Nissan suffered no first-year blues at Sebring. Brabham set a track record of 127.748 mph in qualifying, and the car led all but 21 of the 330 laps.

The turning point for the Jaguar came five hours into the race, when Nielsen brought the car in for a pit stop that included a change of brake pads. But instead of a normal two-minute stop for a brake pad change, the crew had technical troubles and the stop lasted six minutes, putting the car three laps behind.

With the Nissan experiencing no major problems at all, the Jaguar was unable to make up the deficit. Nissan led the final eight hours.

"Our brake pad changes were flawless and I think that's one big reason we won the race," said Brabham, the son of three-time world champion Jack Brabham.

King leads Bullets past 76ers

NEW YORK, March 19, (AP) — Bernard King scored 31 points yesterday as the Washington Bullets extended their home winning streak to 10 games with a 123-114 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

John Williams scored 22, Mark Alanie 17 and Steve Colter 16 for the Bullets, who are battling Philadelphia and Boston for the final two playoff berths in the Eastern Conference.

Philadelphia trailed 62-57 at halftime, and couldn't get any closer than three points in the second half. Charles Barkley and Hersey Hawkins scored 24 points each for led Philadelphia, although Barkley was only 7-of-

20 from the field. Chuck Person scored 11 of his 30 points in the fourth period as the Indiana Pacers broke a four-game losing streak, beating the Chicago Bulls 114-103.

Victory

Otis Thorpe scored 25 points and sleepy Floyd had 17 points and 17 assists to lead the Houston Rockets to a 127-113 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Terry Cummings scored 26 points and Jack Sikma added 21 as the Milwaukee Bucks snapped the Detroit Pistons' nine-game winning streak with a 117-100 victory.

Eddie Johnson scored 29

points and Tyrone Corbin added 22 as the Phoenix Suns won their 10th straight at home, beating the Seattle SuperSonics 122-104.

Alvin Robertson had 27 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists as the San Antonio Spurs rallied to beat the Utah Jazz 114-98 and snap the Jazz' seven-game winning streak.

Alex English scored 25 points and had nine assists as the Denver Nuggets thwarted a late Miami Rally and beat the Heat 111-105.

Kenny Smith scored 23 points as the Sacramento Kings beat Dallas 100-90 last night, extending the Mavericks' road losing streak to seven games.

Fignon leads in cycling

SAN REMO, Italy, March 19, (AP) — France's Laurent Fignon broke away on his own with about five kilometres (three miles) to go today en route to winning his second consecutive Milan-San Remo race, the first leg of the inaugural World Cup cycling competition.

Fignon, a two-time winner of the Tour de France, escaped from the pack along with Frans Maassen of the Netherlands with about 15 kilometres (nine miles) left in the 182-mile course.

The two cycled together for about 10 kilometres (six miles) before Fignon left Maassen behind during a climb

Suzuki clinches victory in Shizuoka Open

SHIZUOKA, Japan, March 19, (AP) — Japan's Koichi Suzuki shot a 1-under-par 71 today for a one-stroke victory in the 40 million yen (\$308,000) Shizuoka Open golf tournament, the Japan PGA's 1989 season opener.

Suzuki started the final round with a two-stroke lead over Nobumitsu Yuhara of Japan. He carded four birdies, one bogey and one double bogey today for a 285 four-round total over the 6,921-yard, par-72 Shizuoka country club Hamamatsu course in Shizuoka, 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Yuhara shot a 70 for a 286 total and tied for second place with Naomichi Ozaki, one of the three Ozaki brothers who have dominated the JPGA in recent years. Ozaki shot a 69 today with six birdies and three bogeys.

Eduardo Herrera of Colombia shot a 72 for a 288 total and placed third.

Wayne Smith of Australia shot a 76 for a 297 total and shared 34th place with Futoshi Iino of Japan. Iino shot a 74 today.

Suzuki received 7.2 million yen (\$55,000) for his victory, while Yuhara and Ozaki each received 3.36 million yen (\$26,000).

Singapore Open

In Singapore, Taiwan's Lu Chien-Soon won the \$220,000 Singapore Open golf champion-

ship today by a single stroke, withstanding a challenge from Carlos Espinosa of Mexico.

Espinosa took second place after a bogey on the final hole gave him a 72 for the day, the same as Lu, and a four-round total of 278.

Edward Pfister of the United States, who led the first two days, shot a disappointing 75 today for a 282 total.

Lu received \$36,652 for his victory. Espinosa received \$24,422.

A total of 159 golfers participated in the tournament, with 74 making the cut for today's final round.

Players golf

In Ponte Vedra, Florida, Chip Beck birdied three of his final six holes yesterday to grab a one-stroke lead over fellow-American Tom Kite in the \$1.35-million Players Championship golf tournament.

Beck posted a four-under-par 68 for a three-day total of nine-under 207 on the tournament Players club course. Kite shot a 69 for his 208 total.

Bruce Lietzke, the 36-hole leader, built a five-shot lead through the first nine holes and had reached 12 under par but then he collapsed.

The usually steady American three-putted the 10th for a bogey, the 11th for a double bogey and added bogeys at the

14th and 18th. His 41 for the second nine left him at 74 for the day.

Lietzke shared third place at 209 with compatriots Ben Crenshaw, Gary Koch, Fred Couples and Mark McCumber, the defending champion who four-putted the 17th green.

Greg Norman of Australia and American Gil Morgan were tied at six-under 210, three strokes off the pace.

Jack Nicklaus had a splendid round of 68 to stand at 211 along with fellow-American Craig Stadler.

Catalan Open

In Pals, Spain, Briton Mark Roe, a stroke clear of the field in the Catalan Open after a third round 69 yesterday, is relishing the prospect of another show-down after Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal.

Olazabal had the measure of Roewhen they battled for the top prize in the Tenerife Open, opening event of the European season.

Olazabal, who shares second spot with Britain's Grant Turner on 209 after a five under par 68, would boost his winnings in the first month of the season to over \$140,000 if he captured the top prize here.

Britain's John Morgan, 45, matched Olazabal's 68 to share

joint third place. He had two eagles, holing a 65-yard wedge shot at the first hole and then hitting his wood approach to the 17th some 10 feet from the flag.

Tucson Open

In Tucson, Arizona, Lori Garbacz turned it on over the back nine to shoot a five-under-par 67 and take a two-stroke lead yesterday after three rounds of the Tucson Open golf tournament.

Garbacz birdied the ninth with an 80-foot chip-in and followed with four birdies over the final six holes to finish 54 holes with a 12-under-par total of 204.

Martha Nause, who led after the first and second rounds, had a poor putting day and posted a 71 for a 206 total.

Australian Jan Stephenson also shot 71 and was alone in third place at 208. Defending champion Laurie Davis of Britain, after a 70, was tied with Americans Missie Bartolotti and Jody Rosenthal at 209, five shot off the pace.

"I felt like the momentum swing for me came on the ninth," Garbacz said, referring to her stunning chip-in. "I have been playing very aggressively and will continue to play that way because of that's the only way I know how to play."

The American has had good results this year but is still looking for his first victory.

The sign of good taste



Made in England

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sheffield Shield

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 19. (Reuters): Queensland eased some of the pain of another failed Sheffield Shield campaign with a crushing 163-run win over Victoria in the final of the Australian One-day Cup competition today.

Scores: Queensland 253 for four off 50 overs (A. Border 77 not out, G. Ritchie 60), Victoria 90 off 32.4 overs (C. Rackemann three for nine, D. Tazelaar three for 18, J. Maguire three for 30). Queensland won by 163 runs.

Auto accident

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 19. (AP): Australian squash ace Shane Barry Reaser was killed in an auto accident early yesterday that also claimed the lives of two young Swiss men who were in the same car, police said.

The car went out of control on a rain-soaked road near the town of Zug at 3 am (0400 GMT) and crashed at high speed into a lamp post, according to police. All three occupants were killed instantly.

British soccer

LONDON, March 19. (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played today.

English Division Two
Barnsley 2 Leeds 2
Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinal Rangers v Dundee United postponed — pitch waterlogged

English Football Association (F.A.) Cup quarterfinal Everton 1, Wimbledon 0; English Division Three: Swansea 3, Gillingham 2.

Squash final

MADRID, March 19. (Reuters): World champion and top seed Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat his compatriot Jansher Khan, the second seed, 15-10 15-12 15-7 in the Spanish Open squash final today.

Italian soccer

ROME, March 19. (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Atalanta	0	Florentina	1
Cesena	1	Torino	2
Juventus	2	Bologna	2
Lazio	1	Napoli	1
Lecco	0	Como	1
AC Milan	0	Verona	1
Parma	0	Anzoli	0
Pisa	0	Roma	0
Sampdoria	0	Inter	1

Nehru Cup volleyball

THE inaugural Nehru Cup volleyball tournament will be held at the Maseelah courts under the patronage of Touristic Enterprise Company from March 25. Teams who wish to participate in this knock-out tournament may contact the organiser on Tel: 3928493 from 8 am to 8 pm. This tournament is held as part of celebrations of the centenary year of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Diving record

HAYANA, March 19. (Reuters): A 27-year-old Cuban has set a world record of 103 metres (338 ft) for the deepest dive without the use of oxygen tanks but with weights. Cuban Television reported today.

Francisco Herrera Pipin made his dive in the Caribbean Sea off the island of Cayo Largo yesterday to beat the previous record set by Italian Stefano Makula by one metre (3.3 ft).

Pipin also holds the world record for the deepest dive without weights or oxygen of 69 metres (226 ft).

Ski jumping

HARRACHOV, Czechoslovakia, March 19 (AP): Ole-Gunnar Fidjestøl today won a ski flying competition here, the next to last event in the World Ski Jumping Cup competition. But several top competitors were missing.

The reigning world ski flying champion soared 178 metres (583 feet) in the first heat, the largest distance of the day, missing his hill record by only five metres (16 feet).

Walking record

BRISBANE, Australia, March 19. (AP): Australian walker Kerry Saxby today set a world record of 20 minutes 32.75 seconds for the women's 5,000-metre event in the Australian Track and Field Championships at Queen Elizabeth II Stadium.

Saxby slashed more than 12 seconds off her own previous world record for the distance, set last year in Perth. She won the race by more than two minutes.

Champion's Cup

LAGOS, March 19. (Reuters): Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nigeria) beat Mighty Barolle (Liberia) 4-1 (half-time 1-0) in an African Champion's Cup first leg soccer tie today.

Scores: Nationale: Chimezie Nwanaga (penalty), Mike Obiku (3-1 pen), Barolle: Washington Bleh (pen)

Greenidge hammers a brilliant 117 in one-day international

West Indies clinch victory over India by eight wickets

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, March 19. (Reuters): Gordon Greenidge hammered a brilliant 117 as West Indies beat India by eight wickets with more than six overs to spare in the fourth one-day cricket international here yesterday.

The opener reached his 12th one-day hundred for his country in only the 34th over out of 192 as West Indies chased India's 237 for eight. They finished with 240 for two in 43.2 overs to go 4-0 up in the five-match series.

Display
It was a savage display of hitting by Greenidge who hit a one-day world record eight sixes, including three each off Ravi Shastri and Krishna Srikanth, as well as six fours.

Although Desmond Haynes outscored him in a first-wicket partnership of 86 in 17 overs, Richie Richardson, coming in at number three, soon found himself in a supporting role despite playing some superb strokes himself on his home ground.

The two added 130 in 20 overs before Greenidge, having hit Ajay Sharma for six the previous ball, attempted a repeat and was caught at long-on by Kapil Dev. Haynes had played brilliantly for his 42 which included a towering six off Mohammed Azharuddin and six other boundaries. He was run out in a rare misunderstanding with Greenidge when he failed to respond to a call for a

quick single and could not beat Kiran More's throw to Shastri at the bowler's end.

Jeffrey Dujon, who had left the field earlier with neck muscle spasms, was sent in at number four and wasted no time in scoring the remaining runs with Richardson who completed a fine 50 just before victory was achieved.

Passed

India, batting first on a placid pitch after winning the toss, had passed 200 for the first time in the series, thanks to an accomplished 88 from Dilip Vengsarkar and a determined 44 from Shastri.

The two came together at 62 for three in the 16th over and were not parted until the 40th having put on 107 in 80 minutes. Shastri, dropped by Viv Richards at point off Eldine Baptiste when he had made only five, eventually fell to the West Indian captain who held a brilliant one-handed catch off his own bowling.

Vengsarkar also featured in an important third-wicket stand of 51 in 10 overs with Azharuddin which repaired the damage of another bad start when Ian Bishop dismissed both openers in his first three overs with only 11 on the board.

Krishna Srikanth was caught behind flashing outside the off-stump and Arun Lal perished

when he hooked to square leg. Azharuddin was run out for the second successive time in the series when he risked a third run on the arm of Richie Richardson, whose magnificent throw from deep mid-wicket beat the batsman by a couple of yards.

Had Keith Arthurton not fluffed an easy run out opportunity when Vengsarkar was stranded in the middle of the pitch when on 31, West Indies would have won the game considerably earlier.

Vengsarkar, however, played an admirably responsible innings staying until the 46th over and hitting six fours before Arthurton partly redeemed himself with a superb running catch at mid-wicket when the Indian captain hooked Bishop.

Scoreboard

INDIA
K. Srikanth c Dujon b Bishop... 7
A. Lal c Arthurton b Bishop... 1
M. Azharuddin run out... 27
D. Vengsarkar c Arthurton b Bishop... 88
R. Shastri c and b Richardson... 44
Kapil Dev c Greenidge b Ambrose... 12
A. Sharma c Richardson b Ambrose... 29
R. Singh not out... 10
K. More c sub (Benjamin) b Bishop... 0
A. Ayub not out... 1
Extras (lb-12 w-2 nb-4)... 18
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs)... 237
Fall of wickets: 1-23-11 3-62 4-169 5-185 6-201 7-229 8-231
Did not bat: C. Sharma
Bowling: Ambrose 10-1-42-2, Bishop 10-1-46-4, Walsh 10-0-53-0, Baptiste 10-0-53-0, Richardson 10-0-49-5



Greenidge: hits one-day world record of eight sixes

WEST INDIES
G. Greenidge c Kapil b A. Sharma 117
D. Haynes run out... 42
R. Richardson not out... 58
J. Dujon not out... 11

Extras (lb-6 nb-5 w-1)... 12
Total (two wickets, 43.2 overs)... 240
Fall of wickets: 1-86 2-216
Did not bat: V. Richards, K. Arthurton, G. Logie, C. Ambrose, E. Baptiste, I. Bishop, C. Walsh.
West Indies won by eight wickets.

Connors and Berger beaten

Mecir faces Noah in Champions Cup final

INDIAN WELLS, March 19. (AP): Seventh-seeded Miloslav Mecir beat No. 4 Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-4 and No. 12 Yannick Noah stopped unseeded Jay Berger 6-3, 6-4 yesterday in the semifinals of the \$702,500 Champions Cup men's tennis tournament.

Mecir, of Czechoslovakia, and Noah, of France, will play in today's final. The winner will receive \$135,000 and the runner-up \$67,500. Noah won here in 1982 and was runner-up in 1984 and '86.

The 24-year-old Mecir took a 2-0 lead in the first set. Connors, 36, of the United States, had triple break point in the fourth game. Mecir hit two service winners and a forehand drop shot to go to deuce, then served an ace which was called out. But Connors told the umpire it was good and conceded the point to give the advantage to Mecir. Mecir held his serve when Connors hit a forehand into the net and went up 3-1.

Lead

Mecir broke Connors in the seventh game for a 5-2 lead, then served it out, including two aces.

Mecir took a 4-0 lead in the second set and was serving for the match at 5-2. Connors had two break points and Mecir hit a backhand passing shot to take it to deuce, then hit another service winner to get the advantage.

Connors roared back and broke him for the first time in the match with a high forehand volley cross-court winner.

Connors held his serve to cut

Mecir's lead to 5-4. Mecir, in his second opportunity to serve for the match, took the final game at love when Connors hit a running backhand long.

"In the second set he played very, very well," Mecir said of Connors. "He missed a couple of balls but he just kept fighting. He was hitting harder and deeper. He was passing me more. I knew I had to put more balls in. I've lost to him two times. I knew I had to play well."

Winner

"I would like to play him back," said Connors, a three-time winner here. "I was up 40-love (fourth game) in the first set and I should have taken that game. Overall he played a good game. I like playing him. He gets everything back. He had to make a lot of good passing shots. When he was up 4-2, if he'd have lost that game it would have been 4-3, it would have been a different story."

"At 5-2 it's hard to dig yourself out of a hole against guys like him," said Connors. "I went for it and it didn't work out. I played damn good tennis, too bad I didn't start out that way."

Noah served five aces against Berger, one in the first set and four in the second.

"I'm happy to be in the finals," Noah said. "It's been a year since I've been in one." That was February 1988 when Connors retired at 4-4 in the finals at Milan.

"I've had tough times this winter but I've worked hard," Noah said. "I don't take anything for



Mecir upsets Connors

granted. Jay is very talented. He doesn't look like a tough player. I wish I had his guts. But he beat the No. 1 guy here this week (Boris Becker) so he's not so bad."

Noah is "playing excellent tennis right now," Berger said. "I just threw away a couple of games. If you get down against Yannick, he eats you up. I was missing some balls by a very small margin. I needed to con-

centrate on every point. Against a guy like him you have to.

Berger, an American ranked 39th in the world, upset Becker 6-1 6-1 in the third round on Thursday.

"I'm very pleased with my week," said Berger. "I enjoy every time I play (Noah). Nobody is saying 'who is Jay Berger?' I think (Ivan) Lendl would probably have a bad week if he lost in the semifinals."

Graf and Evert to meet in Florida final

BOCA RATON, Florida, March 19. (AP): Steffi Graf breezed past Helena Sukova 6-2, 6-1, and Chris Evert defeated Jana Novotna 7-5, 6-1, yesterday to reach the final round of the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Florida tournament.

Graf, the world's No. 1 ranked woman player and seeded first, yielded only five points in eight service games to beat fourth-seeded Sukova in 54 minutes.

Meeting

Evert, fourth in world rankings and seeded third, had more trouble beating Novotna of Czechoslovakia, ranked 34 in the world, at the Polo Club of Boca Raton.

The 19-year-old Graf of West Germany, who has won 21 straight matches without loss of a set this year, and Evert, 34, will meet today for the \$60,000 first prize money.

It will be their 13th meeting. Evert won the first six in 1985 and 1986. Graf won the last six while

reaching the top-ranked position.

Graf, one match victory from winning her fourth straight tournament this year (she won the Australian Open, Virginia Slims of Washington and the US hard-court title), has lost only nine games in four matches she has won this week.

The West German player stopped Sukova, ranked fifth in the world, with service breaks in the fourth and eighth games of the first set and in the second and fourth games of the second set.

She ran out seven straight games from 4-2 in the first set to 5-0 in the second.

"I was moving well. I thought she'd give me more trouble, but she couldn't do anything against my service," Graf said. "In the final, I'll go for it the same way and keep my concentration."

Not even a plane, trailing a banner which read "I love you Steffi — Dakota," could distract Graf, who said Dakota was someone from Toronto trying very hard to take her out.

Ngugi wins fourth world cross-country race title

STAVANGER, Norway, March 19. (Reuters): Kenyan John Ngugi slipped and spluttered through clinging mud today to win an unprecedented fourth successive world cross-country title by the largest margin in history.

Ngugi romped through marsh-like conditions to come home 28 seconds clear of Briton Tim Hutchings and make his third successful defence of the crown he first won in Switzerland in 1986.

It was the biggest winning margin since the race became an official world championship in 1973.

The victory also made Olympic 5,000 metres champion Ngugi the first man to win four times since the event was awarded world championship status.

Splattered with mud but hardly blowing, Ngugi won in 39 minutes 42 seconds with Hutchings a gallant second in 40:10.

Former double world junior champion Wilfred Kirochi made a fine senior debut for Kenya. He took third place 11 seconds further back and helped his country to the team gold for the fourth successive year.

Annette Sergent of France had earlier claimed her second women's title in a similar fashion to Ngugi.

She swept to the front just before halfway in the women's six kms event and was never threatened. She left Nadezhda Stepanova of the Soviet Union with the silver and Canada's Lynn Williams the bronze.

Sergent first won in Warsaw in 1987 but surrendered the title by finishing third in New Zealand last year. She also finished third in Switzerland in 1986.

Addis Abebe of Ethiopia won the junior men's title at the World Cross-country Championships here today.

Kipyego Kororia of Kenya was second and another Kenyan, Steven Nyamu, third.

Pakistan squad

KARACHI, March 19. (Reuters): Javed Miandad has been ruled out of Pakistan's squad for a cricket tournament in Sharjah next week because of a back injury he suffered on the recent tour of New Zealand.

SQUAD: Imran Khan (captain), Abdul Qadir, Salim Malik, Salim Yousuf, Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammad, Aamer Malik, Ejaz Ahmed, Tauseef Ahmed, Salim Jaffer, Shahid Mahboob, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aqib Javed, Mansur Rana.

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